Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-88-131
Friday
8 July 1988

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-88-131 *8 July 1988*

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LD0807130488 [Editorial Report]

Iran and the United States

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' allegation that Iranian officials recently indicated their desire for talks with the United States is "untrue," a Foreign Ministry spokesman asserted in a statement reported by IRNA.

He viewed Shultz' allegation as a "futile" effort to divert attention from the downing of the Iranian airbus. Meanwhile, Deputy Foreign Minister Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam stated in a Tehran radio interview that the United States should pay compensation for downing the airliner, and he also asserted that the Americans must have known the aircraft was a passenger plane because they would have been monitoring its contacts with Bandar-e 'Abbas control tower even before take-off.

Asked about the U.S.-Iranian naval clash which preceded the downing of the airliner, he acknowledged that the "USS Vincennes" sank two Iranian boats. On the altitude of the airliner, an aviation official cited by IRNA said it was flying at 12,000 feet at the time of the attack, and it was in the process of climbing to 14,000.

Tehran radio provided full coverage of President 'Ali Khamene'i's speech at the funeral of airbus victims, during which he said it is the "definite stand of the Iranian Government and nation" to view the downing of the airliner as "intentional."

Contending that the "murder" of the passengers was a crime worse than hostage taking or hijacking, Khamene'i reaffirmed his belief that President Reagan was "personally" responsible for this "unpardonable" crime.

In another development, Lebanese Islamic Unification Movement leader Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban called for attacks on "U.S. organizations and interests" in retaliation for the attack on the airliner, Tehran radio noted.

Nevertheless, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Javad Larijani told the Italian foreign minister that Iran has chosen the political path to channel its anger against the United States, Rome radio reported.

A commentary on the airbus affair by Jeddah's SAUDI GAZETTE described the downing of the plane as an "inexcusable act," adding that the U.S. Government should carry out an investigation independent of the military establishment and should punish those responsible.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi warplanes dealt "accurate and effective" blows to three large maritime targets off the Iranian coast the night of 7 July, an Iraqi spokesman announced in a statement cited by Baghdad radio. Two of the targets were "large," and the third "very large."

Nicosia radio disclosed that one of the targets was a Greek tanker, which was hit and set on fire by an Exocet missile 30 miles south of Kharq Island. An Iranian speedboat had earlier attacked a Romanian merchant ship bound for Kuwait, according to INA, which noted that two members of the ship's crew were wounded.

Iraqi warplanes also carried out further raids against the Iranian oil installations at Emam Hasan and Gorreh 7 July, the Iraqi command stated in a communique carried by Baghdad radio. IRNA announced that Iranian planes bombed Iraqi targets in the northern and southern fronts.

The newly formed Iranian General Staff Headquarters issued a statement over Tehran radio which called on "all persons who can carry a gun" to register for duty at the fronts or for training.

Lebanon

Fall of Burj al-Barajinah—The battle for Burj al-Barajinah came to an end after the commander of Yasir 'Arafat's forces in the camp agreed to evacuate his men in return for guarantees of safe passage to the Sidon area, Voice of Lebanon radio reported.

A convoy of some 120 pro-'Arafat fighters and 5 women subsequently left Burj al-Barajinah for the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp, where they arrived early 8 July. The radio said that 12 people were killed and 25 wounded in the final round of fighting which preceded the cease-fire agreement.

In the war of words which has accompanied the fighting, Baghdad Voice of the PLO and Sanaa Voice of Palestine broadcast further denunciations of the Syrian "conspiracy" against the Palestinians in Lebanon.

Damascus radio cited an interview with Fatah Provisional Command leader Colonel Sa'id Musa (Abu Musa) in which he accused 'Arafat's forces of starting the fighting and denounced the document issued by Bassam Abu Sharif, 'Arafat's adviser.

In another development, the East Jerusalem paper AL-FAJR reported that the PLO began broadcasting from a new radio station near Sidon 4 July, noting that the station is aimed at the occupied territories and that it calls itself "the Palestine radio, the PLO radio."

Syrian Call For Reforms—A Damascus radio commentary on the upcoming Lebanese presidential elections stressed the need for constitutional reforms to establish "justice and equality, ensure equilibrium, and provide guarantees for all." The radio expressed confidence that the way is open for all Lebanese sides to seriously discuss reforms.

Afghanistan

Another booby-trapped vehicle exploded in Kabul, killing one person and wounding two others, Kabul radio announced. The radio blamed "elements connected to extremist groups" for the blast, which occurred near a hospital.

In a speech to the Meli Shura (National Assembly) broadcast by the radio, President Najibullah acknowledged that the withdrawal of Soviet forces leaves the Afghan Army with "new and difficult tasks," but he expressed confidence that the military can carry these out.

Government troops have foiled opposition attempts to capture Vardak and Qalat Provinces, he said, and the Kabul authorities have "full control" of Jalalabad and Qandahar. In another development, Najibullah received visiting UN special envoy Diego Cordovez, the radio noted.

North African Affairs

Tunisia—The trial began in Tunis of former government minister Mansour Skhiri, who is accused of abuse of power, embezzlement, and misappropriation of public funds, Paris radio reported.

Sudan—A military official cited by SUNA stated that the army's "deterrent brigade" recently drove SPLA "outlaws" from the Equatoria region, killing 150 rebels.

Libya-Chad—Direct talks between the foreign ministers of Libya and Chad began in Libreville, according to Libreville Africa No 1 radio. The talks in the Gabonese capital are the first direct negotiations between the two countries since 1973, the radio noted.

Mauritania—Three people were recently murdered in Nouakchott in incidents which mark growing racial tension between Arabs and blacks, BBC World Service radio reported.

Islamic Affairs

European Islamic Conference Condemns Iran

PM0607080188 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Jul 88 pp1,2

[Unattributed report: "European Islamic Conference Urges Use of Force Against Those Who Stir Up Riots During Hajj"]

[Excerpt] Participants in the European Islamic Conference on the Preservation of Islamic Sanctities (Britain and Ireland) have agreed unanimously that Khomeyni and his group have departed from Islamic unanimity and Islamic principles by claiming virtuousness, accusing Muslims of infidelity, kindling sedition in the Islamic world, and striving to spoil the hajj and violate the sanctity of the two holy mosques.

The conference was held at the Olympia Conference Hall in London and lasted 3 days. It was attended by more than 200 Islamic figures from all over the world. At the end of the conference a statement was issued condemning the Iranian regime and its leadership and supporting the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the measures it is taking to maintain security and protect pilgrims at the two holy mosques during the hajj season.

In their statement the participants pointed out that "those who stir up riots and undermine security in Mecca and Medina during the hajj season must be treated like those who fight against God and His messenger; thus the principle of force [al-hirabah] must be applied against them, since there is no mischief worse than stirring up riots and sedition during the hajj season."

The conference urged the rulers of the Islamic world to fear God and apply the Islamic shari'a in full in their countries. The conference saluted the Palestinian people and their confrontation with the Zionist occupation. The conference called on the Islamic peoples to support this people both materially and morally.

The conference condemned Iran's insistence on continuing the war against Iraq and also its rejection of Islamic, international, regional, official, and popular endeavors. The conference urged Iran to accept UN resolutions, especially Resolution 598 calling for an end to the Gulf war. The conference praised the Muslim Afghan people's jihad, sacrifices, and heroism, calling for more support for these people to enable them to establish an independent Islamic state. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

Opposition Leader on Camps War, 'Arafat's Role

JN0807061088 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 8 Jul 88

[Text] Colonel Sa'id Musa [Muraghah], also known as Abu Musa, secretary of the provisional command of the Fatah Uprising Movement, has affirmed that Yasir 'Arafat's group was the one which started intra-Palestinian fighting in the Palestinian camps in Lebanon. He said: We were hoping that any problems we had with 'Arafat would be settled through democratic dialogue and political action and not through fighting.

In an interview with London radio, Abu Musa said he believes 'Arafat wants this infighting, which he has imposed on us, to make us submit to his political program, embodied in his recent document presented in the name of Bassam Abu Sharif. He said this document calls for peace with the recognition of Israel and the termination of the Palestinian cause. He added: This is something we reject in part and parcel.

Concluding his statement, Abu Musa stressed that the Palestinian camps must remain for the inhabitants. He said: The camps are for those who live in them and the Palestinian national factions have a moral, revolutionary, and humanitarian responsibility toward these camps. These factions must form security committees from now on to safeguard security and stability for the camps' inhabitants.

Al-Quds Broadcasts Palestinian Call No 21

JN0507192088 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1650 GMT 5 Jul 88

["Call No 21 issued by the Unified Popular Committees in Palestine. Call of the blessed Al-Aqsa"—date not given; read by announcer]

[Text] O sons of our heroic people: Our people's gigantic uprising is entering its 8th month with full vigor and massive militant escalation, scoring one victory after another along the path of liberation and independence. You are valiantly confronting the repressive measures and crimes being perpetrated against you by the neo-Nazi authorities. You are daily stressing your strong determination to continue the uprising and persevering struggle until the attainment of our people's national inalienable rights to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state under the leadership of the PLO, our sole legitimate representative.

The uprising has enabled our people to score a prominent political victory at the uprising summit in Algiers through the clear recognition of the right to establish an independent state and of the soleness and legitimacy of the PLO's representation of our people. Our people's masses call on the summit leaders to implement what has been approved.

On the world level, the uprising brought about a large-scale change in world public opinion on both the popular and official levels in favor of our national cause. It also brought about unprecedented support for our people's right to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent state. Our people's uprising

has buried forever all liquidatory plans and weak alternatives that are aimed against our legitimate rights. It stressed that there is no alternative to freedom and national independence.

The Unified Popular Committees of the Uprising stress that our people are struggling to preserve their existence and restore their usurped national rights. These people are being exposed to a long series of repressive practices by the occupation authorities, such as demolishing houses, burning crops, destroying properties, besieging villages and camps, deportations, arbitrary arrests, and the killing of children, women, and elderly with bullets and toxic gases.

Our people's masses call on the international community and the United Nations to intervene immediately to withdraw the Zionist forces from the residential areas in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, provide international protection for our unarmed masses, and close the fascist detention camps, especially the Negev Desert detention camp. Our people's masses stress there will be no stability in the Middle East, and perhaps the world, without finding a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestine question.

The Popular Committees of the Uprising, proud of the firmly-established national unity of the uprising masses, appeal to our people's sons wherever they are to close up their ranks and unify their efforts. They also condemn the Palestinian fratricide in the Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah camps and call for stopping it.

O masses of the uprising, the Unified Popular Committees greet our revolutionary masses everywhere. They praise the heroic role of the Jerusalem masses for their confrontation of attempts to encroach on and destroy our Islamic and Christian sanctities. While doing so, they call on our people's masses to escalate and develop the uprising to further approach all-out civil disobedience and stress the following:

1. To enhance the boycott of the Zionist products and prohibit their import into local markets. Local newspapers should not advertise any of these products. Strike teams will be waiting for all promoters of these products.

2. Not to pay bail money or fines to the occupation authorities' treasury.

3. To withdraw savings accounts from Israeli banks.

4. Our national factories should redouble their production capacity while paying for overtime hours and improving work conditions without deducting the days of an all-out strike. Trade unions should conclude work agreements with local employers in the service of national welfare. Successful experience in this regard should be generalized.

5. Every caution should be taken against the attempts of the occupation authorities and its agents to undermine our people's unity by inciting sectarian differences, as was the case in Nabulus, Bethlehem, and Gaza. Anyone who in one way or another helps in this dirty scheme will be firmly confronted.

6. To praise those who resigned from the civil administration departments and intensify blows to those who did not resign from the departments and organs from which they were asked to resign.

7. To bolster and generalize the formation of unified popular committees and health, popular education, storage, domestic economy, and guard committees. Popular committees, and not the authority organs, should be addressed when there are differences that need to be resolved.

8. To form committees in charge of guarding property and crops, specifically in Jericho, the Jordan Valley, and the northern area, with the aim of protecting them against attacks by settlers and the occupation agents.

9. To bolster the national economy, domestic economy, and agricultural cooperatives and to promote the concepts and forms of social cooperation and mutual assistance.

10. To warn principals who violate the education directives of the popular and national committees and adopt measures against students. It is essential for teachers to engage in popular education on strike days and during closure of schools which should be turned into bases for building national awareness and militant spirit. We urge students to bolster the formation of their unified committees to organize and activate the academic march.

The Unified National Popular Committees condemn the massacre perpetrated by the occupation forces and settlers in the courtyards of the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque on 3 July. They praise the heroic confrontation of the Jeruslaem masses in defense of our sanctities. We call on our masses to show more vigilance and to prevent the hordes of settlers and politicians of Zion from desecrating and destroying our holy places. We appeal to Islamic and Arab states, the Vatican, the United Nations, and all our friends in the world to immediately intervene to end the encroachments on the sanctity of our Islamic and Christian holy places.

While greeting our students, who carry the pen in one hand and the stone in the other and who build our national economy with their dark-skinned arms; our merchants, who are imposing [as heard] our national decision; our peasants, who are destroying the tentacles of the Zionist octopus; and our struggling villages, which are dealing painful blows to the occupation forces and settlers, the Unified Popular Committees call for the implementation of the following militant program:

July 7 will be the day of solidarity among the besieged villages, cities, and camps. National activities will be carried out to help them and break the siege imposed on them.

July 8 will be the day of the blessed Al-Aqsa. It will be a day of a distinguished escalation in which all popular sectors will take part in protection of the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque and in defense of our sanctities. On this day the strike forces will deal painful blows to the occupation forces and settlers.

July 9 and 10 will be days of an all-out strike on the occasion of the beginning of the uprising's 8th month and the fall of the first convoy of our martyrs. These are 2 days of national mourning for the souls of our people's martyrs in the Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah camps. Black flags will be hoisted on these 2 days.

July 12 will be a day of cooperative work and turning to the land to bolster the building of agricultural coopoeratives and agricultural economy.

July 14, the 8th anniversary of the heroic Gaza strike, will be a day of solidarity with the Negev Desert detention camp. On this day our institutions and popular bodies will carry out the appropriate solidarity activities.

July 16 will be a day of militant activities in protest against the closure and storming of schools and arrest of students.

July 18 will be a day of a general strike in solidarity with detainees in the Negev Desert detention camp.

The days from 6-20 July are considered days of activities and confrontation of the occupation forces and organs. The initiative for implementation will be left to the popular and competent committees and the strike teams in consolidation of the building of the people's authority.

Further use of the methods of popular struggle and further heroic confrontation of the Zionist enemy; further cohesion and national and field unity along the path of liberating the land and man.

[Signed] The Unified Popular Committees in Palestine

PLO Version of Call No 21

JN0607200088 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1602 GMT 6 Jul 88

["Call No 21 issued by the PLO, the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising. Call of the blessed Al-Aqsa"—on 5 July; read by announcer]

[Text] O sons of our heroic people: Our people's gigantic uprising is entering its 8th month with full vigor and massive militant escalation, scoring one victory after another along the path of liberation and independence. You are valiantly confronting the repressive measures and crimes being perpetrated against you by the neo-Nazi authorities. You are daily stressing your strong determination to continue the uprising and persevering struggle until the attainment of our people's national inalienable rights to repatriation, self-determination, and establishment of an independent Palestinian state under the leadership of the PLO, our sole legitimate representative.

The uprising has enabled our people and their representative the PLO to score a prominent political victory at the uprising summit in Algiers through the clear recognition of the right to establish an independent state and of the soleness and legitimacy of the PLO's representation of our people. Our people's masses call on the summit leaders to implement what has been approved.

On the world level, the uprising brought about a clear change in world public opinion on both the popular and official levels in favor of our national cause. It also brought about an unprecedented support for our people's right to repatriation, self-determination, and establishment of their independent state. Our people's uprising has buried forever all liquidatory plans and frail alternatives that are aimed at obliterating our legitimate rights. It stressed there is no alternative to freedom and national independence.

The Unified National Leadership of the Uprising stresses that our people are determined to preserve their existence and restore their usurped national rights. These people are being exposed to a long series of repressive practices by the occupation authorities like demolishing houses, burning crops, destroying properties, besieging villages and camps, deportations, arbitrary arrests, and the killing of children, women, and elderly with bullets and toxic gases.

Our people's masses call on the international community and the United Nations to intervene immediately to withdraw the Zionist forces from the residential areas in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, provide international protection of our unarmed masses, and close the fascist detention camps, especially the Negev Desert detention camp. Our people's masses stress that there will be no stability in the Middle East region, and perhaps the world, without finding a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestine question through an international conference with full prerogatives to be attended by the PLO, on an equal footing with all other parties in its capacity as our sole legitimate representative, and the UN Security Council permanent member states.

The Unified National Leadership, proud of the firmly-established national unity of the uprising masses, appeals to our people's sons wherever they are to close ranks and unify efforts. It condemns the savage shelling and destruction of the Shatila camp by the group of renegade Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muraghah] because this constitutes a stab in the back of the PLO. It holds Syria

responsible for not preventing the destruction of the Shatila camp because it is the only side that is capable of that. It calls on Syria to act immediately to stop the scheme of massacres and liquidation of the militant Palestinian presence in Lebanon.

O masses of the uprising, the Unified National Leadership greets our revolutionary masses everywhere. It praises the heroic role of the Jerusalem masses for their confrontation of the attempts to desecrate and encroach on our Islamic and Christian sanctities. While doing so, it calls on our people's masses to escalate and develop the uprising to further approach all-out civil disobedience and stresses the following:

To enhance boycott of Zionist products and prohibit their import into local markets. Local newspapers should not advertise any of these products. Strike teams will be waiting for all promoters of these products.

Not to pay bail money or fines to the occupation authorities' treasury.

To withdraw savings accounts from Israeli banks.

Our national factories should redouble their production capacity while paying for overtime hours and improving work conditions without deducting the days of an all-out strike. Trade unions should conclude work agreements with local employers in the service of national welfare. Successful experience in this regard should be generalized.

Every caution should be taken against the attempts of the occupation authorities and their agents to undermine our people's unity by inciting sectarian differences, as was the case in Nabulus, Bethlehem, and Gaza. Anyone who in one way or another helps in this dirty scheme will be firmly confronted.

Every caution should be taken against the agents who hide under the guise of religion and patriotic names and who try to distort the image of the uprising and attack the PLO and the Unified Leadership. It is also essential to verify the identity of collectors of donations and to strike with an iron fist all forms of hooliganism, thefts, and harassment of citizens as is the case in the Gaza Strip and the northern part of the West Bank. It is also essential to boycott the poisonous programs transmitted by the Zionist news media.

To praise those who resigned from the civil administration departments and intensify blows to those who did not resign from the departments and organs from which they were asked to resign.

To bolster the formation and generalization of unified popular committees and health, popular education, storage, domestic economy, and guard committees. Popular committees, and not the authority organs, should be addressed when there are differences that need to be resolved.

To form committees in charge of guarding property and crops, specifically in Jericho, the Jordan Valley, and the northern area, with the aim of protecting them against attacks by settlers and the occupation agents.

To bolster and build the national economy, domestic economy, and cooperatives and to promote the concepts and forms of cooperation and social assistance.

To warn principals who tamper with the education directives of the Unified National Leadership. It is essential for teachers to engage in popular education during the closure of schools which should be turned into bases for building national awareness and militant spirit. We call on the students to bolster the formation of their unified committees to organize and activate the academic march.

The Unified National Leadership praises the city of Nazareth and greets our people's masses. We are confident these masses will not hesitate to offer further backing and support for the uprising. The Unified National Leadership also greets the progressive and democratic forces and the Jewish peace forces which support our people's national rights. It calls on these forces to undertake further activities in support of these rights.

The Unified National Leadership condemns the massacre perpetrated by the occupation forces and settlers in the courtyards of the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque on 3 July. It praises the heroic confrontation of the Jeruslaem masses in defense of our sanctities. It calls on our masses to show more vigilance and to prevent the hordes of settlers from desecrating and destroying our holy places. We appeal to the Islamic and Arab states, the Vatican, the United Nations, and all our friends in the world to immediately intervene to end encroachments on the sanctity of our Islamic and Christian holy places.

While greeting our students, who carry the pen in one hand and the stone in the other; our workers, who build our national economy with their dark-skinned arms; our merchants, who are substantiating our national decision; our peasants, who are destroying the tentacles of the colonialist octopus; and our strike forces, which are dealing painful blows to the occupation forces and settlers, the Unified National Leadership calls for the implementation of the following militant program:

July 7 will be the day of solidarity for the besieged villages, cities, and camps. National activities will be carried out to help them and break the siege imposed on them.

July 8 will be the day of the blessed Al-Aqsa. It will be a day of a distinguished escalation in which all popular sectors will take part in protection of the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque and in defense of our sanctities. On this day the strike forces will deal painful blows to the occupation forces and settlers.

July 9 and 10 will be days of an all-out strike on the occasion of the beginning of the uprising's 8th month and the fall of the first convoy of our martyrs. These are 2 days of national mourning for the souls of our people's martyrs in the Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah camps. Black flags will be hoisted on these 2 days.

July 12 will be a day of cooperative work and turning to the land to bolster the building of agricultural cooperatives and an agricultural economy.

July 14, the 8th anniversary of the heroic Nafhah strike, will be a day of solidarity with prisoners in the Negev Desert detention camp. On this day our institutions and popular bodies will carry out the appropriate solidarity activities.

July 16 will be a day of militant activities in protest against the closure and storming of schools and arrest of students.

July 18 will be a day of a general strike in solidarity with detainees in the Negev Desert detention camp.

The days from 6-20 July are considered days of activities and confrontation of the occupation forces and organs. The initiative for implementation will be left for the popular and competent committees and the strike teams in consolidation of the building of the people's authority.

Further use of the methods of popular struggle; further heroic confrontation of occupation; further cohesion and national and field unity along the path of freedom and national independence.

[Signed] The PLO, the Unified National Leadership in the occupied territories, 6 July 1988

Algeria

APS Notes Cooperation Moves With Morocco

LD0707174088 Algiers APS in Arabic 0900 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Text] Algiers, 7 Jul (APS)—Following the convening of the Maghreb summit in Algiers, and implementing the instructions and directives of President Chadli Bendjedid and King Hassan II, Algerian-Moroccan cooperation today in Rabat achieved a new dynamism designed to provide the proper conditions for building the Greater Arab Maghreb and facilitating joint solutions for the paramount Maghreb issues.

Yesterday in Rabat, El-Hadi Khediri, member of the FLN Central Committee and interior minister, and Driss Basri, [Moroccan] interior and information minister signed the minutes of the work of the Algerian-Moroccan joint committee, founded by a joint agreement on 31 May 1988 in Rabat.

The committee ordered a study of the problems connected with the resumption of land, sea, air, and rail communications, and also of telecommunications, and to propose practical measures for facilitating the movement of persons and goods. It was decided that the findings should be handed in by July 1988 at the latest.

In carrying out its instructions and honoring the expiry of this deadline, the two sides met in Rabat in the presence of Nabi Belkacem, minister of energy, chemical, and petrochemical industries, and his Moroccan opposite number, and also the Moroccan minister of post and telecommunications.

Apart from cooperation in electricity generation and distribution, the energy ministers reviewed other fields of cooperation, especially those related to natural gas.

It should be remembered that the proceedings of the Algerian-Moroccan joint committee took place in Algiers 5-11 June 1988, and in Rabat 20-24 June 1988.

According to the instructions of the joint statement, the committee studied the points in connection with the movement of persons and goods, after reviewing the comprehensive data of the agreements and accords existing between the two countries in this field.

In this context a number of matters were dealt with, especially:

Conditions of entry and residence in the light of the residence agreement signed on 15 March 1963, as amended and completed by the attached protocol and letters exchanged on 15 January 1969;

Matters pertaining to air, land, and sea transport, and matters pertaining to post and telecommunications;

Issues of cooperation among various administrations and cooperation between border municipalities and local groups.

The proceedings made it possible to isolate a number of proposals and conclusions that can be implemented quickly, and some which require medium-term implementation.

Regarding the entry and residence of people in either country; residence will constitute the proper legal framework in accordance with the recommendations of the joint statement regarding the activation of existing agreements.

Thus, henceforth, and in addition to abolishing entry visas and opening border posts, entry and residence will remain conditional upon the arrangements of the letters exchanged on 15 January 1969 concerning the sum of money possessed by any citizen going to either country.

In the framework of facilitating the movement of people and possessions and in regard to car insurance particularly, the facilitating decision is represented in extending from one country to the other the legal validity of agreements signed. The two delegations agreed on facilitating arrangements concerning financial surety in connection with citizens crossing into each other's countries. In the same context the two sides decided to:

Develop air communications between the two countries and double the number of flights; resume railway communications and encourage the movement of people and transportation of goods; develop land transportation and open sea routes of joint interest; exchange information, technical employees, and observers of the two administrations, and consolidate consultations.

In order to advance this further and encourage contacts, it was decided to: put automatic telephone connection between the two countries into operation—allowing the ministers of posts and telecommunications of the two countries to have a conversation for several minutes through the first automatic telephone connection; to resume the joint sale of postage stamps issued in the two countries; and to extend the means of communications linking the two countries.

In the same vein, electrical connection was established between the two countries' networks. This will allow electricity supplies between the two countries. The two delegations gave priority to the need for the integral development of border regions proceeding for their natural and economic integration.

In tourism, it was decided to:

Organize tourist and cultural exchanges, especially where it concerns encouraging organized youth and group tourism; organize and promote joint tourism work; organize cooperation concerning antiquities, excavations, and museums.

The two delegations expressed their satisfaction at the existing cooperation between the two countries in combating locusts, and requested that the anti-locust program be maintained and strengthened.

It is also worth pointing out that significant measures have been adopted in the educational, cultural, economic, and social sectors by establishing special committees. These measures will be the subject of study by ministers and the sectors concerned in both Algeria and Morocco.

Chad

President Returns From Visit to Zaire 3 Jul

AB0407085488 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Excerpts] President Hissein Habre returned to Ndjamena late this morning. The Chadian head of state was returning from Gbadolite, Zaire, where he was on a 24-hour working and friendly visit at the invitation of President Mobutu Sese Seko. [passage omitted] The two heads of state have been working hard to develop and strengthen the exemplary cooperation between Chad and Zaire. President Hissein Habre told the Zairian media this morning at Gbadolite airport that he was going home very satisfied with his visit to Zaire. During the news conference, Zaire-Chad cooperation, the Chad-Libya dispute, and national reconciliation were the key topics examined. [passage indistinct]

Comments on Libyan Peace Move

AB0407165988 Paris AFP in French 2203 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Text] Gbadolite (Zaire), 3 Jul (AFP)—Chadian President Hissein Habre this morning left Gbadolite, in northwest Zaire, where he had been on a 24-hour visit to his Zairian counterpart, Mobutu Sese Seko, who is a native of the town. Shortly before his departure for Ndjamena, Mr Habre held a news conference at which he spoke of the Chad-Libya conflict. He expressed the view that it would be "illusory not to consider all possibilities, including the most pessimistic ones."

"We have always been firm and constant supporters of peace," Mr Habre asserted, stating nevertheless that "there is a gap between Tripoli's words and action." "We are expecting the Libyans to match their words with action," he continued.

The day before his departure, the Chadian president and his host toured a commando training camp at Kotakoi, 100 km east of Gbadolite where he chaired a graduation ceremony for 600 Chadian soldiers who were presented with commando training certificates after undergoing 3 months of training in the camp.

For his part, Marshal Mobutu said that economic cooperation between the two countries, which was interrupted because of the Chadian crisis, would "resume on a new footing." "However, we will continue military cooperation," he added. Concerning Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's statements at the last OAU summit in Addis Ababa, the Zairian president said "his tone has changed." "He is now preaching peace and wants to resume relations with Zaire. Well, we shall take him at his word. We have taken note of his intentions. We must now see whether they will be fulfilled," he concluded.

Cabinet Approves 24 Billion CFA Credit

AB0507101588 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 0530 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] An extraordinary cabinet meeting was held yesterday under the chairmanship of the head of state. During the meeting, the ministers examined and adopted a draft loan agreement to be signed between our country and the IDA, the International Development Association. Here is our report on the extraordinary cabinet meeting presented by the government spokesman and minister of information, Adoum Moussa Seif.

[Begin recording] At its extraordinary meeting under the chairmanship of the head of state His Excellency El Hadj Hissein Habre, the cabinet examined and adopted the bills concerning the financial rehabilitation project to be signed between Chad and the IDA. These loan agreements, which provide for a total amount of over 24 billion CFA spread out over a period of 18 months, had already been studied (?in depth) during an earlier cabinet meeting. [passage indistinct] [end recording]

Opposition Official on Leader's Whereabouts

AB0107100488 London BBC World Service in English 0630 GMT 1 Jul 88

[From the "Network Africa" program: telephone interview with Democratic Revolutionary Council Chief Information Officer (Ghailif Burkumanda) in Paris by correspondent Jean Victoire Nkolo; date not given]

[Text] Where is Acheikh ibn Oumar? He is the leader of the Democratic Revolutionary Council, the CDR, which is the main faction in a coalition of opposition parties in Chad known as GUNT. Acheikh ibn Oumar and his CDR group used to be supported by Libya. But on 20 March he suddenly disappeared in Tripoli and nothing has been heard of his whereabouts since. His colleagues in the CDR claim that Acheikh ibn Oumar is being held against his will by the Libyans because he does not agree with the peace overtures being made by Libya's leader, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, to the president of Chad, Hissein Habre. On the line to our Paris studios, Jean Victoire

Nkolo asked (Ghailif Burkumanda), chief information officer of the CDR, what evidence there was that Acheikh ibn Oumar is being detained against his will by the Libyans?

[Begin recording] [(Burkumanda)] in French fading into English translation] We have been in telephone contact with colleagues in our office in Tripoli. We heard that all those CDR sympathizers who did not agree with the line taken by Goukouni had been rounded up. Acheikh ibn Oumar was apprehended at the airport as he was attempting to leave the country. Col al-Qadhdhafi, who was attending a conference on human rights in Banghazi on that same day, ordered a plane to pick up our leader. Later, two rounds of discussions helped to secure the freedom of those who had been rounded up.

[Nkolo] Is it not true that all this is happening simply because Col al-Qadhdhafi, who after all has been backing all the opposition groups in Chad, is now willing to make peace with President Hissein Habre?

[(Burkumanda)] Libya is an independent country. It can have relations with any country of its choice. Our movement, the CDR, is autonomous and does not want to interfere in Libyan affairs. For us the conflict remains completely Chadian. Peace will have to be settled among Chadians. The solution to this conflict is blocked only because what we are being offered is no more than a policy asking us to disband and join the other side.

[Nkolo] Why has the CDR not accepted to join the bandwagon for peace negotiations since both Ndjamena and Tripoli are now willing to settle the matter peacefully?

[(Burkumanda)] It is a bit simplistic to see the Chadian conflict as a conflict between Chad and Libya. It is a fact that foreign intervention has made the situation even more complicated in this conflict, but peace will certainly come one day if Chadians can sit down and think seriously about ways to end a civil war which has seen more than 20 years of factional fighting.

[Nkolo] What is the real [word indistinct] of your movement today?

[(Burkumanda)] We have had long-standing political relations with both countries and organizations that share our analysis of the situation in Chad. We do ask for support, we do act independently and by ourselves. We are militarily active inside the country and from neighboring countries. We are active in the north, in the south, and the central-eastern part of Chad, and that is the truth. [end recording]

Egypt

Commentary Examines Iran's Recourse to UN

NC0707140488 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1140 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Muhammad Sahraf commentary: "The Dimensions of Iran's Complaint to the UN Security Council"]

[Text] For the first time since 1981, Iran has resorted to the UN Security Council to demand a direct condemnation of the United States and the withdrawal of the U.S. naval force from the Gulf as a result of the downing of an Iranian airliner and the deaths of its 290 civilian passengers. We do not believe that there is a single soul with a conscience who has not been shaken or pained by this incident, or any similar incident. This is irrespective of the fact that Iran is still opposed to ending the war with Iraq.

No matter from what angle we study this matter, we will find no direct cause for this incident other than this irrational war, which drains the two warring countries' human and financial resources. A U.S. missile downed the airliner over the scene of clashes between U.S. naval units and Iranian gunboats. Naturally investigations will be conducted to determine whether this regrettable incident was the result of a deliberate action or an error. However, these investigations will not bring the victims back to life.

We will now return to Iran's complaint after all these years and discuss its dimensions. Iran has always accused the Security Council of being biased against it. The Council will certainly not be able to adopt a resolution which satisfies Iran and condemns the United States. Besides, U.S. President Ronald Reagan has already announced that the plane was shot down over a war zone and in accordance with the right to self-defense. He also publicly apologized to the Iranian Government.

It is known that the Security Council adopted a decision a year ago calling for an end to the Iraq-Iran war and for the peaceful settlement of the two countries' disputes. However, that decision has been mere ink on paper because of Iran's stand and, more importantly, because of differences between the superpowers regarding the need to impose sanctions and ban arms sales to Iran as a result of its stand. The United States demands the imposition of a ban on arms sales to Iran.

The Soviet Union, on the other hand, tends to deal with the matter patiently because of its conviction that Iran always will find a source for arms, even if a decision to ban arms is made in this respect. These are the apparent reasons. The real reasons, however, can be attributed to the superpowers' differences over influence in the Gulf region. The United States has considerably intensified its naval presence in the region adjacent to the southern borders of the Soviet Union. For its part, the Soviet Union calls for limiting this Western naval presence, which it views as a strategic threat to its borders.

Moreover, there are major Western economic interests in the region, particularly the oil supplies which are threatened by the Gulf war. The desire to protect these interests has prompted the United States to increase its naval presence. Seen in this light, the superpowers are also responsible for the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war for the past 8 years. On the one hand, this war creates a

thriving market for weapons and, on the other, it provides a bargaining chip among the superpowers for influence in this vital region.

It is surprising that Iran is aware of all these facts because it continues to refuse to end the war for absolutely illogical reasons. The most important of these illogical reasons is the aim of controlling the destiny of the Gulf region and the Middle East as a whole. All those who know the facts and favor peace undoubtedly hope or, rather, demand an end to this outrageous and futile war.

Paper Calls for Iran To Reassess Policy

NC0807075988 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0635 GMT 8 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, 8 Jul (MENA)—The AL-AHRAM newspaper calls on the Tehran rulers to be genuinely frank with themselves in light of the many catastrophes and disasters, the latest of which was the downing of the Iranian airliner in which almost 300 people were killed. The paper also urges the Tehran rulers to take into account the recent military developments, the most significant being the recent series of setbacks and Iraqi victories.

In today's edition, the paper notes that Iran's threat to take retaliatory measures in response to the incident is not the correct way of dealing with this disaster. It points out that the Tehran rulers would do well to consider this tragedy a starting point to make a just and proper reassessment of their policy that would be in harmony with the actual interests of the Iranian people, who are paying the price of their leaders' insistence on pursuing a clumsy policy.

In conclusion, the paper affirms that the United States is to blame for the downing of the Iranian plane but adds that the greater responsibility lies with the Tehran rulers. By their intransigence and insistence on threatening freedom of shipping in the Gulf, the Tehran rulers turned this vital waterway into an arena of conflict involving the fleets of the major powers, the paper adds.

Sidqi Delegation Returns From Baghdad 7 Jul

NC0807072088 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0615 GMT 8 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, 8 Jul (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi and the delegation accompanying him returned to Cairo late last night at the conclusion of a 3-day visit to Iraq, during which he conveyed a message from President Husni Mubarak to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

During the visit, Dr Sidqi led the Egyptian side in the meetings of the joint Egyptian-Iraqi Higher Committee, which ended its first session yesterday. The Iraqi delegation to the meetings was headed by Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi first deputy prime minister.

Sidqi Affirms 'Success'

NC0807091088 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 8 Jul 88

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi and the delegation accompanying him returned to Cairo late last night at the conclusion of a 3-day visit to Iraq. [passage omitted]

In an arrival statement, Dr Sidqi affirmed the success of the work of the joint Egyptian-Iraqi committee's first session, noting that the committee's meetings were the fruit of the historic meeting between Presidents Saddam Husayn and Husni Mubarak in Iraq recently. Sidqi disclosed that Dr Amal 'Uthman, minister of social insurance and social affairs, and Dr Fu'ad Iskandar, minister of emigration and Egyptians abroad, will visit Iraq shortly to discuss issues relating to Egyptian workers in Iraq.

Prospects for Cooperation With Iraq Viewed

NC0607052288 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2055 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, 5 Jul (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR newspaper praises the firm relations between Egypt and Iraq. It asserts that the useful results of the joint Egyptian-Iraqi Higher Committee meetings, which aim to promote bilateral economic and trade relations, will not be limited to the two countries alone, but will benefit the entire Arab world as well.

In its edition tomorrow, Wednesday, the paper says that the joint projects being discussed by the Egyptian-Iraqi committee will contribute to Iraq's steadfastness in its war with Iran and to enhancing its economy. These projects will also benefit the Iraqi and Egyptian peoples by bringing them closer to each other and through their cooperation in various fields. The paper notes that Egypt had hastened to fulfil all the Iraqi demands for arms and military equipment to help it confront the Iranian aggression. Egypt has also helped large numbers of Egyptian peasants to travel to Iraq in order to assist the Iraqi people in mobilizing all their resources for the war which was imposed on them in defense of all the Arabs, the paper added.

In conclusion, the paper points out that the projects for cultivating Iraqi lands and building a railway line between Cairo and Baghdad via Jordan will achieve many peoples' great dreams. Furthermore, these projects will constitute a big step toward a genuine Arab unity, the paper concludes.

U.S.-Israel Missile Accord Denounced

PM0707161188 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 5 Jul 88 pp 1-2

[Mahmud Bakri report: "Israeli-U.S. Agreement To Threaten Egypt and Arabs With Missiles"]

[Text] News agencies have reported that the U.S. Government and the Israeli enemy's government last Wednesday signed a memorandum of understanding in

response to a decision by the U.S. President following his talks with Yitzhaq Rabin, Israeli war minister. Under the memorandum there will be cooperation in a program for the joint development of antimissile ballistic missiles to counter what the two parties term the danger threatening Israel as a result of the Arab states' possession of missiles capable of carrying chemical warheads. Under the memorandum the defensive missile (Arrow) will be developed.

Egyptian diplomatic sources told AL-SHA'B that the new U.S.-Israeli memorandum of understanding is one of the most dangerous memoranda signed between the two parties during the last 10 years.

The sources said that the secret clauses of the memorandum are tantamount to indirectly declaring war against the Arabs, since the United States has agreed to provide Israel with the latest missiles in order to confront the missiles possessed by some Arab states. It has been agreed that such missiles be directed at Egypt, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Libya (in order)!

The sources pointed out that the United States has promised not to provide the Arab states with any arms that would threaten Israeli national security. It has also promised to work toward preventing the Arabs from receiving any medium-range missiles from any European or socialist quarter. In addition, the two parties agreed to continue exchanging expertise with a view to preparing the military plans necessary for securing Israel's borders!

The White House statement indicated that the United States responded to Rabin's request to expedite delivery of F-16 fighter planes.

The memorandum was signed a few days after the announcement by the United States of the uncovering of an Egyptian group smuggling a material called carbon composite, which is used in the development of surface-to-surface and surface-to-air missiles; it is also used in confusing radar systems. It was said that Egypt uses this material in modifying its and the Arab states' missiles.

Sudanese Minister Arrives on Official Visit

NC0707191388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1730 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 7 Jul (MENA)—Eng Mahmud Bashir Jamma', the Sudanese minister of irrigation and water resources, arrived in Cairo from Khartoum tonight on an official 1-week visit to Egypt. During his visit he will hold talks with Eng 'Isam Radi, minister of works and water resources. [passage omitted]

Guatemalan Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit

NC0607051788 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2215 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, 5 Jun (MENA)—Guatemalan Foreign Minister Alfonso Cabrera Hidalgo arrived in Cairo tonight heading a delegation for a 5-day visit to Egypt. During his stay, Mr Hidalgo will hold talks with a number of top Egyptian officials on international issues of common interest and bilateral relations.

In an arrival statement, the Guatemalan minister disclosed that he is bringing a written message to President Husni Mubarak from the Guatemalan president. He praised the existing relations between Egypt and Guatemala and voiced his country's support for Egypt's efforts to establish peace in the Middle East and to convene an international peace conference. The Guatemalan minister also expressed his country's concern over the continuing Gulf war, and called for its conclusion so that the bloodshed in the region would stop. He asserted his country's rejection and condemnation of the downing of the Iranian airliner over the Gulf.

Receiving the Guatemalan minister, Dr Fu'ad Iskandar, minister of emigration and Egyptians abroad, welcomed Mr Hidalgo in Cairo. Iskandar said that the policies of Egypt and Guatemala are identical as the two countries are working to establish peace and democracy and to raise their peoples' living standards.

Official Talks Begin

NC0607095088 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0930 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, 6 Jul (MENA)—Official talks between Egypt and Guatemala opened today in Cairo. Dr Fu'ad Iskandar, minister of state for emigration and Egyptians abroad, headed the Egyptian side, and Guatemalan Foreign Minister Alfonso Cabrera Hidalgo headed his country's delegation to the talks.

The talks dealt with bilateral relations and ways of strengthening them in all fields, as well as international issues of common concern such as the Middle East, the Gulf war, and the situation in Latin America.

The Guatemalan foreign minister arrived in Cairo yesterday for a 5-day visit to Egypt. He is scheduled to hold talks with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, after the latter returns from Iraq.

Portuguese Foreign Minister Arrives in Cairo

NC0807052888 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 8 Jul 88

[Text] Portuguese Foreign Minister Joao de Deus arrived in Cairo this morning on a 2-day visit to Egypt during which he will meet with President Husni Mubarak. Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the Portuguese minister are scheduled to hold talks tomorrow on international issues of mutual concern, including the situation in the Middle East and Portugal's and the EC's role in the peace efforts. The two foreign ministers will also discuss bilateral relations and ways of promoting them in various fields.

IMF Suggests Establishing Cairo Mission

JN0207100288 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 30 Jun 88 p 1

[Text] AL-WAFD has learned that the recent talks between the government and the IMF mission headed by IMF Executive Director Dr Abd al-Shakur Sha'lan included a suggestion by the IMF to establish an IMF mission in Cairo. The mission will hold consultations with the government on economic reform programs as agreed by the two parties. During the meetings, Dr Sha'lan stressed that the mission is aimed at assisting the Egyptian Government in completing the talks on rescheduling Egypt's debts to some creditor countries, members of the Paris Club. He set the condition that the Egyptian Government pay all the expenses of the mission. The task of the mission includes observing how loans are spent.

Dr Sha'lan said that IMF delegations have visited Egypt 15 times since the signing of the letter of intent in May. These visits were aimed at exchanging views on the government's economic reform program. He added that the mission is aimed at helping the Egyptian Government complete its economic reform programs.

Membership in Culture, Science Group Restored

NC0507205088 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1947 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] Tunis, 5 Jul (MENA)—The Executive Council of the Arab Organization for Education, Culture, and Science has decided to reinstate Egypt as an active member in the organization.

In its approximately 2-hour meeting tonight, the council rescinded its earlier decision to suspend Egypt's membership in the organization, which was taken at its extraordinary session in Manama in 1979. The council urged the organization's director general to take the necessary steps to put this resolution into effect.

The MENA correspondent in Tunis has learned that the decision was made by a majority of votes. Seventeen countries voted in favor of the decision. Syria expressed its reservations and Libya voted against it, threatening to withdraw from the organization, while Algeria and Lebanon abstained.

The Libyan delegate announced outside the conference hall that his country has actually withdrawn from the organization because of the decision allowing Egypt's return to it. The correspondent also learned that, in his rejection of the resolution, the Libyan delegate said that his government will submit a memorandum on this matter to the Arab League Ministerial Council. According to the correspondent, the organization is currently holding consultations with the Libyan delegate to see how serious the Libyan threat to withdraw from the organization is.

Correction to U.S. Detention of Alleged Smuggler

The following correction pertains to the item under the headline "Timing of U.S. Arrest of Alleged Smuggler Viewed" published in the 6 July Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, pages 11-12.

Page 11, column two, line four, should read ...Government, specifically the Justice Department in this.... (correcting "State" to "Justice")

Libya

Opposition Leader Cited on Al-Qadhdhafi Policies

NC0707113388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0950 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, 7 Jul (MENA)—Mansur al-Kikhya, secretary general of the Libyan National Alliance, has declared that Egypt is the backbone of the Arab world and that no Arab party can replace Egypt's pan-Arab role. He explained that Egypt's resumption of its pan-Arab role would be a great gain for the Arab nation and its causes.

In a statement to MENA, Al-Kikhya denounced Libyan Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's hostile practices against Egypt. He said that the policy of fighting Egypt, which Al-Qadhdhafi has pursued beyond all limits, runs counter to pan-Arab, as well as Libyan, national interests.

On Al-Qadhdhafi's internal policy, Al-Kikhya said: The main problems we object to are Al-Qadhdhafi's domestic practices and the questions of violence and repression, which are unjustified because the Libyan people are few in number, have huge oil revenues, and have no sectarian or racial problems. Although such conflicts do not exist in Libya, Al-Qadhdhafi is creating them through his practices.

On Al-Qadhdhafi's declaration that he is folding the page of violence, Al-Kikhya said: In Libya we do not have experience in political action. This has facilitated the policy of repression which has been imposed on the Libyan people. The problem, however, remains, because the decisions made to release political prisoners and to stop hunting down Libyan opposition members abroad took the form of declarations and speeches that were not supported by legal steps. The main issue remains the absence of any legal guarantees.

Al-Kikhya said that the Libyan people at home and abroad are awaiting further steps. He called for the release of all political prisoners, the declaration of a general amnesty based on laws, and the abolition of the revolutionary committees, which have taken power in Libya and which are in charge of repression and torture.

On the unification of the Libyan opposition factions, Al-Kikhya said that the Libyan National Alliance, which embraces several Libyan opposition factions, is expected

to hold a general congress this summer to discuss the recent developments in Libya and the opposition's stand toward them. He called on the Arab host countries to give the Libyan opposition factions the necessary facilities because these factions are acting on the basis of a pan-Arab stand and are struggling against a non democratic regime ruling Libya.

Mansur al-Kikhya is an independent and well-known Libyan personality. He also is a former Libyan foreign minister who tendered his resignation from this post on three different occasions because of his opposition to human rights violations in Libya. Al-Kikhya also was Libya's permanent representative to the United Nations from 1975 until he resigned in 1980.

Statement Protests Israel's Plans for Jerusalem
LD0707095688 Tripoli JANA in English 0847 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Text] Tripoli, 7 Nasir [July], JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison has released today a statement in protest over the Zionist criminal scheme aiming at eliminating all Muslim features of honoured Al-Quds [Jerusalem]. The statement is as follows:

The Zionist enemy is still pursuing its policy in a bid to eliminate the Islamic features of honoured Al-Quds in its attempt to destroy and suppress whatever relates to the Arab and Islamic history. Within this framework, the frequent aggressions have been launched against sacred places, apart from the attempts at arson, demolition and dismantlement the honoured Al-Aqsa Mosque has been subjected to.

At 7 a.m. on Sunday 3rd Nasir (July) 1988, a group of Jewish fanatics guarded by the Zionist occupation forces conducted deep digging underneath Al-Aqsa Mosque aiming at digging up a tunnel connecting Al-Maghariba and Al-Ghawanima gates with a depth of 14 metres beneath the surface of the ground. Such an act makes all Islamic archaeological [as received] of a character of civilization subject to fall down and crack thereby enabling the Zionists to control the most important gate of this honoured place.

These continuing Zionist violations being conducted until the present time aims in actual fact at demolishing Al-Aqsa Mosque entirely and establish in its place the so-called third temple.

This criminal action, being racist and fanatical, not only represents a challenge to the feelings of the Islamic nation and the Arab and international public opinion, it is also a flagrant violation and complete disregard for international legitimacy, U.N. and other international forums resolutions passed in this regard.

Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, (?while warning) Arabs, Muslims and international public opinion, international and specialized religious commissions against this criminal scheme, demands that it be necessary to take the appropriate steps to stop these violations and punish the perpetrators.

In compatibility with the resolutions pursued by the Islamic Conference, Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah states that the question of Palestine and honoured Al-Quds is the first cause of Islam and Muslims. Also, waging jihad (holy war) to liberate Palestine and set the Al-Aqsa Mosque free from the aggressions and transgression of the Zionists and supporting the Palestinian people is a sacred duty that makes it essential that all Muslim countries shoulder their responsibilities to repulse this Zionist onslaught.

The People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison has sent notes to the U.N. sec. gen, the UNESCO sec. gen, the sec. gen of the Arab League and the sec. gen. [all abbreviations as received] of the Islamic Conference organization demanding that they shoulder their responsibilities as to the necessity of stopping this criminal Zionist [words indistinct]

Minutes of Joint Commission With Romania Signed
LD0707201888 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1100 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Text] Tripoli, 7 Jul (JANA)—The minutes of the proceedings of the 12th session of the meetings of the Libyan Arab-Romanian Joint Commission were signed in Tripoli today. The minutes include provisions for an increase in the development of technical, economic, cultural, scientific, touristic, and medical cooperation between the Great Jamahiriyah and Romania.

The minutes were signed by the secretary of the General People's Committee for Planning and, on the Romanian side, by Deputy Prime Minister Neculai Ibanescu.

Mauritania

3 Killed in Nouakchott Amid 'Racial Tension'
AB0707173988 London BBC World Service in English 1709 GMT 7 Jul 88

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] There has been some serious trouble in the Mauritanian capital, Nouakchott. There have been deaths and injuries. Nouakchott has been the scene of racial tension between Arabs and blacks since an attempted coup was discovered last year, led by black Army officers, and the execution of a number of the plotters. From Nouakchott, Che Bakai cabled this report:

[Begin studio announcer recording] Three people have been killed and another injured in Nouakchott in what are rumored to be related incidents. It all began last week

when an Arab and an African confronted each other in the Nouakchott marketplace. The Arab was severely injured. As a result, tension mounted in the market and several fights broke out. Later, a lieutenant in the Mauritanian Army, (Muhammad Mahmoud Ould Moul al-Zahyi), was killed in his bed in front of his wife and his child. According to his wife, four men entered their bedroom at 4 o'clock in the morning and they killed her husband. She said the men were wearing military uniforms. The child, who is 10 years old, ran out of the house to inform the police, but meanwhile, the murderers had made their escape.

The next night, an Arab woman was found dead in her bed. Official sources say that her death was natural, but others say that she was killed with a knife. A third person, a black taxi driver, has also been killed. It is rumored that his death was a form of revenge. Officials say that the incident, while criminal in nature, is not political. An official source told reporters yesterday that the murders were all isolated incidents. There are many rumors circulating in Nouakchott that black African extremists have planned a series of killings and revenge for the execution early this year of three black African commissioned officers accused of plotting against the regime. Despite the fact there is no hard evidence linking these events with racial tension, the death of the lieutenant has made observers wonder whether the killers had not chosen a deliberate political target. [end recording]

Morocco

Algerian Interior Minister Arrives 5 Jul

LD0607164788 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] Algerian Interior Minister el-Khediri arrived today on a visit to Morocco. He was welcomed at Sale airport by Driss Basri, minister of the interior and information; the governor of Rabat and Sale; and close aides of the minister.

The Algerian interior minister declared in a news statement at the airport that he has brought a message to His Majesty King Hassan II from His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid of Algeria. He said:

[Begin Khedin recording] First of all, once again we are in our second country, fraternal Morocco. I am in Morocco at the time we arranged, that is 5 July, thanks be to God, after the appointment of the commission a month ago. This commission has begun its proceedings and [words indistinct] we spoke, and here I am today in order to continue this work, God willing, [words indistinct] on which the commission worked rapidly and in detail. This is what we required of it and here I am today with you on time, very satisfied and carrying a message of friendship and love from the Algerian people to the Moroccan people and from President Chadli Bendjedid to his brother, His Majesty King Hassan II. They have asked us to work, and here we are working diligently, God willing, because the people, our people—the people of Algeria—and the people of Morocco have expectations from this work. God bless it. [end recording]

Meets King Hassan

LD0607223388 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Excerpt] At noon today, His Majesty King Hassan II, may God make him victorious, received at the Royal Palace in Al-Sukhayrat Algerian Interior Minister Hedi Khediri. The audience was attended by Prime Minister Laraki, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Filali, Minister of Interior and Information Basri and Royal Advisor Ahmed Reda Guedira. Belkacem Nabi, Algerian minister of energy, chemical and petrochemical industries, came to greet his majesty in the presence of [Moroccan] Minister of Energy and Mines Mohamed Fettah. [passage omitted]

Technology Transfer Protocol Signed With Canada

LD0207133588 Rabat MAP in English 1217 GMT 2 Jul 88

[Text] Rabat, (MAP)—Morocco and Canada Friday concluded an understanding protocol concerning a technology transfer promotion project.

The protocol, falling within the framework of the Moroccan-Canadian economic and technical cooperation agreement concluded in October 1981, was signed in Rabat by Director General of International Cooperation Rafiq Haddaoui and Canadian Ambassador to Morocco Wilfred Licari.

Speaking on the occasion, Haddaoui expressed satisfaction at the boost in bilateral cooperation this protocol gives and expressed hope Canadian technology will contribute to Morocco's socio-economic development.

Licari for his part said the protocol constitutes a new milestone in cooperation between the two countries, saying his country was happy contribution, through its technology to the Kingdom's development. [sentence as received]

The protocol, covering a period of the three years beginning July 1 this year, provides for promoting economic relations and Canadian technology transfer to Morocco's private and public sectors at shared cost, mainly in priority areas like agriculture, fisheries, energy and mines, telecommunications and transports and health.

The budget assigned to this project amounts to six million Canadian dollars (approximately 40 million dirhams), 80 per cent of which will be provided by Canada and the remaining 20 per cent by Morocco.

Briefs

Cooperation Accord With CSSR

Rabat, 25 Jun (MAP)—The third session of the Moroccan-Czechoslovak joint committee for economic, scientific, and technical cooperation—headed on the Moroccan side by Mr Rafiq Haddaoui, director general of international cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation; and on the Czechoslovak side by Mr Jan Garcar, deputy minister of foreign trade—has concluded its work in Rabat. The work of the third session of the Moroccan-Czechoslovak joint committee, which met from 22 to 24 June, was crowned with the signing of a new agreement on economic and technical cooperation to replace the agreement signed by the two countries on 8 May 1961. [Excerpt] *[LD2606020988 Rabat MAP in Arabic 0900 GMT 25 Jun 88 LD]*

Sudan

'Rada Brigade' Moves Against Rebels in Equatoria

LD0607222388 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1400 GMT 5 Jul 88

[From the "Message to a Fighter" program]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate:

Brother comrades in arms: The Armed Forces General Command attaches great importance to ending the rebellion in Equatoria. That rebellion has disturbed innocent citizens and deprived them of security and stability. In this connection, the General Command formed a large force named the Rada [deterrent] Brigade. It was assigned great tasks, the most important of which was to purge the area from South Malakal as far as Juba.

The Rada Brigade has actually begun its tasks. It started from Fattashah area, western Omdurman, two months ago and traveled 1500 km to arrive in Juba on 25 June 1988. It is camped at western Rejaf. The Rada Brigade is a strike force armed with belief in God, in the homeland, and in executing the tasks assigned to it; namely, repulsing and chasing the treacherous rebels.

The Rada Brigade has actually carried out heroic operations. On its march from Fattashah, western Omdurman, to Juba the Rada Brigade succeeded in destroying most of the rebel camps in the area south of Malakal and extending from western Nuer area in Ayod, Mogogh, Dukfadiat, Duk Faiwil to Bor Dinka areas in Kongor, Bor and (Anidi).

The brigade's reputation, even before its courageous actions, is such that the rebels, shying like birds from the forest lions, fled from the Rada Brigade. In the Kongor and Bor areas the brigade, with its strike forces, succeeded in destroying rebel camps in (Anidi, Fadiat, and Juluk). In fact the (?Faoliat) camp is one of the biggest supplying the Bor area with rebels. The camp and all it contained were razed and completely destroyed. Also destroyed were 16 warehouses built of stable straw. The rebels had stored supplies and equipment for their gangs in the bushes and forests. Our courageous forces also captured weapons, ammunition, trucks, tractors, and bicycles which the outlaws left behind when they fled their camps.

The Rada Brigade marched, guarded by God's care, destroying all the outlaws camps. The outlaw remnants fled from the brigade and from its great heroic action like locusts through the forests and bushes. The Rada Brigade struck fear and terror into the hearts of the treacherous outlaws. Brother heroic soldiers, the Rada Brigade has a great mission, but we are convinced that it is equal to it. We are fully convinced that it will reach Torit soon, destroy the rebel fortifications, and end the myth of treacherous rebels in eastern Equatoria.

As proof of this, brother citizens and heroic soldiers, most of the eastern Equatoria residents considered the arrival of the Rada Brigade in the region as a good omen. All the people of eastern Equatoria were determined to drive away the outlaws who brought damage and destruction. Our heroic soldiers are determined, steadfast, and watchful for the homeland, thanks be to God who brought them victory.

Salutations and appreciation to every individual in the Rada Brigade. Salutations also to the veteran commander Brigadier Hasan (Muhammad Hasan Allam), commander of the Rada Command, and his colleagues who carried out their mission thoroughly and thoroughly disciplined the outlaws and banished the myth of the outlaws. Everyone in Equatoria sings a song for the Rada Brigade.

Brother heroic soldiers, until we meet, we salute you. Peace be upon you. Go under the protection of God. God is great. Glory be to the homeland and honor to our courageous Armed Forces.

Minister on Economic Reform Program, IMF Talks

JN0307183988 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1510 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Text] Khartoum, 3 Jul (SUNA)—The postponement of the negotiations with the IMF until September, and consequently the postponement of the Paris Club meetings, will not affect the influx of foreign aid to Sudan and contributions to the financing of the quadrilateral program for salvation, reform, and development.

This was stressed today by Dr Tijani al-Tayyib, minister of state at the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning. He said that the implementation of the quadrilateral program began as scheduled at the beginning of the current 1988-89 financial year. He added that there is no reason to delay the implementation of the program.

On the IMF's position toward the state's general financial performance in light of the recent negotiations, the minister said that the IMF believes that the economic performance, in general, was good, but it expressed some reservations as regards the public expenditure, especially Central Bank overdrafts.

He explained that this was not of the government's volition but prompted by some security circumstances that resulted in the government's failure to achieve financial discipline as agreed with the IMF.

Tunisia

Delegations Arrive for Palestinian Camps Talks

'Arafat Issues Statement

LD0707133688 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Excerpt] The president received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat today at the Palace of the Republic. After the meeting, which was attended by Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche and Hakam Bal'awi, PLO representative to Tunis, 'Arafat made the following statement:

[Begin 'Arafat recording] This morning I had the honor of meeting the brother president. I submitted to the president all the issues and developments occurring in the Palestinian arena, foremost among which is the loathsome crime carried out by the Zionist enemy and the fanatic [word indistinct] against Jerusalem and the holy mosque. This was exposed by our people and our masses last Sunday, and the continuous clashes now raging between our masses and the inhabitants of Jerusalem against the fanatic armed settlers (?and) the Israeli Army, which is fully assisting them. This aggression is not against the Palestinian people and the Arab nation alone; It is aggression against the Arab and Islamic nation, and all things sacred.

My talks with brother president also dealt with the aggression and the destructive shellings faced by the Palestinian camps for more than 3 weeks, which are still continuing in Lebanon. The aim of this is to evacuate the Palestinians from Lebanon in preparation for a big scheme which is not simply aimed at the Palestinian and Lebanese people, but at the whole Arab region. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia's Mas'ud Arrives

LD0707222988 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1755 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Excerpt] Tunis, 7 Jul SPA—Mr Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, minister of state and member of the Council of Ministers, arrived this afternoon in Tunis to attend the meetings of the ministerial committee in charge of monitoring the situation in the Palestinian camps in Lebanon.

The committee will commence its meetings later this evening. [passage omitted]

Kuwait's Al-'Usaymi Arrives

LD0707221288 Kuwait KUNA in English 1550 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Text] Tunis, July 7 (KUNA)—Kuwaiti State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sa'ud M. al-'Usaymi arrived here this afternoon leading his country's delegation to the meetings of a ministerial committee charged with reviewing the situation of the Palestinian camps in Lebanon.

The committee is scheduled to begin discussion later this evening under a call by Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

The fight over the camp of Burj al-Barajinah, the last strong hold for Arafat in Lebanon, seems to have ended today in favor of the breakaway movement led by so-called Abu Musa. [Sa'id Musa Muragha]

Former Minister Skhiri Corruption Trial Opens

LD0707214788 Paris Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 7 Jun 88

[Text] The trial of former minister Mansour Skhiri has begun in Tunisia. A close aide of former president Habib Bourguiba, Mansour Skhiri is accused of abuse of power, embezzlement, and misappropriation of public funds.

Kuwait

U.S. Congress Considers $1.9 Billion Arms Deal

LD0707214088 Kuwait KUNA in English 2003 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Text] Washington, July 7 (KUNA)—The U.S. and Kuwait have "enormous" mutual interests that justify the sale of a 1.9 billion dollars arms package to Kuwait, two senior U.S. officials reminded Congress Thursday in announcing the Administration's formal notification of intent to push the proposal. And they pointed out—as Kuwait's ambassador to the U.S. did recently—that it was pointless to buy "stripped down" versions of the arms as some wary congressmen propose.

The testimony precedes by just three days the high-level visit here of Kuwait's Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah. (The five-day working visit begins on Sunday, and includes talks with President Reagan, Cabinet members and congressional leaders).

At stake are 40 advanced F-18 jet interceptors and related support equipment and armaments, which Kuwait formally requested on May 12. Deliveries of the sophisticated gear would begin in 1991 and continue for 36 months, U.S. officials have said. If the sale is approved, it would be the first time the F-18 (the U.S. Navy standard) and Maverick-G missile would be acquired by any Arab state.

State Department Mideast expert Peter Berleigh and Pentagon arms specialist Edward Gnehm testified in open session before the House Foreign Affairs Committee. In defending the massive arms sale, the two cited three "fundamental aspects" of the situation in the Arabian Gulf:

—The sale is a "strong indication of the growing strength of the U.S.-Kuwaiti relationship,"

—"It reflects Kuwait's commitment to share actively in the burden of defending the Gulf,"

—"The sale fulfills the U.S. national interests in the political, economic and strategic spheres,"

—"The ... modest sale does not threaten Israel's security" or seriously affect the balance-of-power in the region.

In the face of sometimes-hostile questioning from pro-Israeli congressmen, the witnesses pointed to the threat to Kuwait from Iran, including missile attacks and shelling from the Al-Faw Peninsula when it was held by Iranian forces. Although Kuwait, they noted, "has traditionally opted for a policy of balance and neutrality," that was threatened by Iranian-sponsored terrorism and persistent Iranian attacks on its territory and commercial interests."

The nation of Kuwait, they added, recognizes that its much-favored diplomacy had limits, "unsupported by an adequate military deterrent." And the State and Defense Department officials noted the overall U.S.-Kuwaiti relationship had "grown enormously" over the past year, partly due to military and other cooperation in reflagging 11 Kuwaiti tankers. What is more, they agreed the help Kuwait has given in pursuit of United Nations Resolution 598 (for a Gulf War ceasefire) enhanced the desirability of the sale.

Kuwait, as well, was "instrumental" in the creation of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), an organization the two officials credited with "playing an increasingly active diplomatic and military role" in the region. And they called "constructive" Kuwait's role at the U.N., the Arab League, the Islamic Conference and other regional and international organizations.

In the economic realm, Berleigh and Gnehm pointed to Kuwait's huge investments in the West, noting it had a "vested interest in pursuing ... policies to strengthen the Western world economies." One example of such "strengthening" was the "10,000 job-years" the weapons sale alone represented for U.S. industries and the boon to American workers, they said.

As to what pro-Israeli congressmen have claimed was the "threat" to Israel the sale represented, the two senior officials observed the F-18s would be based only in Kuwait and could not be transferred to other nations without prior U.S. permission. Moreover, "it is most unlikely Kuwait would jeopardize its economic, political and military relationship with the U.S. by transferring (the defensive equipment) to a third country," Berleigh and Gnehm argued. And they said never in the U.S.-Kuwaiti relationship had Kuwait ever broken its word of the prescribed use of American arms.

There was a danger, in any case, that if Kuwait was barred from buying the F-18 aircraft, missiles and other equipment, it could follow the example of Saudi Arabia and other states in the area. Frustrated by heavy Congressional controls on how U.S.-supplied arms are used and frustrated by the large presence of the powerful Israeli lobby on Capitol Hill, many have reluctantly turned to other nations for arms, analysts have pointed out.

Request for UN Security Council Meeting Viewed

LD0607094688 Kuwait KUNA in English 0845 GMT 6 Jul 88

["Iran—Strategy: a KUNA commentary"—KUNA headline] [Text] New York, July 6 (KUNA)—Iran's request for a Security Council meeting on the downing of an Iranian passenger jet Sunday may signal Tehran's decision to return to conventional diplomacy.

Some analysts believe that Iran has come to realise its growing isolation in the international community and its presumed backing of terrorist acts have become not only

too burdensome but strengthened the internal critics of the Khomeyni regime. The Iranians, analysts say, have become vulnerable on many fronts, and want to mend fences with the West.

On Tuesday, Tehran suprised the international community by turning to the Security Council, a body it has been boycotting since 1981 because of the Council's alleged pro-Iraqi stance. Iran wants the Council to condemn Sunday's plane tragedy and urge the United States to withdraw its forces from the Arabian Gulf.

One reason for Iran's apparent change of heart with regard to the Council's usefulness to further its political goals is the current military situation in the Gulf, these analysts believe. They say Iraq's latest military successes in the nearly eight-year old war have made it more difficult to recruit young Iranians to fight for their country. The lack of progress on the military front and fears of further isolation in the diplomatic field have prompted the Iranians to rethink their policy toward the West, the analysts believe.

The experts also speculate that Iran may use the plane incident as a face-saving device for ending the war with Iraq by blaming its continuation on U.S. presence in the Gulf. There have been fewer calls lately for international condemnation of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and his government who, Iran claims, started the war in 1980. These experts say Sunday's tragedy could actually open the way for negotiations on the basis of Resolution 598, calling for an immediate ceasefire and the withdrawal of forces as first steps for comprehensive negotiations.

Since its adoption July 20 last year, Iran has rejected parts of the resolution while accepting others such as the call on all sides to exercise utmost restraint, and the request for an investigation into the causes for the war. The Iranian speech in the Council when it meets probably late this week or early next week will be closely watched for any signs of compromise on the part of Iran.

Foreign Minister Comments on Mideast Tour

LD0607135188 Kuwait KUNA in English 1246 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] Kuwait, July 6 (KUNA)—Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad Wednesday stated that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad "promised to exert efforts towards ending the battles in the Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon."

In a statement to KUNA, Shaykh Sabah said his highness the amir's message to President al-Asad, which he delivered earlier in the week, dealt with the fighting in the Palestinian camps between rival Palestinian factions. Furthermore, the Kuwaiti chief diplomat said his highness the amir hoped that the Syrian president would interfere to end the camps' battles, as the latter has influence on the rival factions. He indicated that the camps' battles affect what the popular uprising has achieved in the occupied Arab territories.

The Syrian president responded to his highness the amir's request and promised to make efforts towards ending the fighting between the Palestinian combatants, he added. Shaykh Sabah expressed satisfaction with the outcome of his recent tour which included trips to Iraq, Syria and Jordan.

He said he delivered messages to Iraqi and Syrian presidents, Saddam Husayn and Hafiz al-Asad respectively in addition to King Husayn of Jordan, from his highness the amir.

The Kuwaiti chief diplomat clarified that h.h. the amir congratulated brethren in Iraq for the liberation of their territories from foreign occupation in his letter to President Saddam. The message delivered to the Jordanian monarch tackled the Palestinian camps battles, Shaykh Sabah concluded.

Saudi Arabia

Downing of Iranian Plane Called 'Inexcusable Act'

PM0707150588 Jeddah SAUDI GAZETTE in English 5 Jul 88 p 6

[Editorial: "Compounded Tragedy"]

[Text] The downing of the Iranian passenger airliner with 298 [as published] people on board with SM-2 missiles from the American warship Vincennes in the gulf is an inexcusable act. It is inconceivable that the sophisticated American high-tech of the American warship could not distinguish between a passenger airliner and a military one.

The White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said; "When the aircraft failed to heed repeated warnings, the Vincennes followed standard orders and widely publicised procedures, firing to protect itself against possible attack." This statement cannot hold water. It is tantamount to saying that the ship's commander who gave the shoot-to-down order mistook an elephant for a mouse.

Following the official line of justification, Admiral William Crowe, the chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, said that the American commanders in the Gulf "acted with good judgment." If that is their "good judgment," then one quails to think at what their bad judgment could be.

The feeling of the American Navy personnel is more realistic than the official statements of the U.S.Government. The Navy personnel in the gulf have ben reported to be at a quandary as to how a civilian airliner could possibly be mistaken for an F-14 military jet fighter on the attack. The mood among the Navy people has been reported to be gloom and "utter disbelief that

this could happen." The feeling of the Navy people is the same as that of the rest of the people in the world. There cannot be justification for the downing of the Iranian passenger airliner.

If the Iranian authorities wanted to attack the American warship, they have enough military jet fighters to do the job. Besides, the American personnel in the Gulf knew full well that the reluctance of the Iranian authorities not to engage the American fleet in battle had been interpreted as a realistic judgment on the part of the Iranian regime which might have found itself in much hotter water than it already is.

Whichever way one looks at is, the downing of the airliner does not make sense. One canot say honestly that the sophisticated high-tech on the Vincennes has failed. One would assume that the equipment of a warship in a war zone would be in a tiptop shape all the time, and the element of error cannot be to such a magnitude that an airliner could be mistaken for an F-14 jet fighter.

What could have happened then to compel the commander of the Vincennes to order the downing of the airliner? It could be that the commander did not give the order. It could be that some of the personnel of the warship had fired on the airliner before the command was given. Without delving into the motives of such an action, one could say that it is a possibility. The commander would then be in a ticklish position. He could not say that he had not given the commander to fire at the airliner, because he would then leave himself open to accusation that he was not in complete command of his ship. That would make him lose his commission, most likely. He had no alternative but to claim that he had given the order, and to justify it on a threat to his ship.

Once the commander had committed himself to having given the order to fire on the airliner, the American military hierarchy would naturally stand by him. The government, who depends on what has happened on the reports the military has given it, would go along with the military.

The mistaken identity reason is very hard to accept by anyone. There could have been a multitude of other mistakes on the part of the pilot of the Iranian airliner, or the American personnel, but the mistaken identity excuse is a lame one. The other reason implied by some Americans that the Iranian authorities might have deliberately set up their airliner as a target for some convoluted reason or another is equally farfetched. The Iranian authorities had done some things that boggled the minds of most of the people in the world, but they are not so far gone that they would send 298 civilian people to a sure death. They know for sure that such an action would alienate them from their public, something that they can hardly aford at this time. Even if they wanted to do that, such a plan could not have remained a secret.

The Iranian attacks on commercial ships passing through the gulf has been jarring on the nerves of the international community. The downing of the airliner is in that category of action. It is a human tragedy that shakes the collective conscience of most people in this troubled world. It is bad enough that a lot of people in the world have been caught in wars in many troubled spots in the world, becoming destitutes suffering from diseases and starvation. If civilians cannot count on safety even in the air, the tragedy is being compounded.

There has been some kind of mistake in the downing of the Iranian passenger airliner. The U.S. Government should carry out an investigation independent of the military establishment to pinpoint culpability and have the courage to punish those who have been responsible for it.

Instructions Issued for 1988 Mecca Pilgrimage

LD0807105988 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1010 GMT 8 Jul 88

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 8 Jul (SPA)—The Ministry of Pilgrimage Affairs and Religious Trusts has issued pilgrimage instructions for 1988. The instructions are based on directives from King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, the followup by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard, and with regard to their instructions on the mobilization of all resources and apparatuses in readiness for the pilgrimage season to provide the best services for God's guests. [passage omitted]

The instructions included the following statement from the Interior Ministry: Important statement from the Interior Ministry: [passage omitted]

Proceeding from the divine prescription of the concept of this religious rite, the sons of the Kingdom and its government perceive the great hardhsip and effort made by their brothers in Islam to fulfill one of the pillars of their true religion. Therefore, they are trying to provide all the means to ensure that pilgrims to God's holy house will fulfill their objective and perform their rites in ease. The Kingdom's sons are trying to prevent anything that may affect the atmosphere of humility and worship or hurt their feelings and harm their fraternity and the sacredness of the objective.

This Ministry has noticed that some individuals among the brothers who have arrived had with them, either in good faith, which is what we believe, or out of a desire to exploit this noble occasion, books, pictures, and leaflets of a political, propaganda, or ideological aim, which will have an effect on some people or directly hurt others which is contrary to the noble objective of pilgrimage.

Therefore, on the basis of information available, the Interior Ministry draws attention that such things are absolutely forbidden. The Ministry hopes that the opportunity for the guests of God to perform their rites in humility will be provided and that no attempts are made to turn them away from their worship. While stressing this, the Interior Ministry hopes that everyone will adhere to worship and will not disregard it. Whoever violates this will be subject to a fine and will be returned to wherever he came from. Furthermore, if anything which is forbidden is found on him, his punishment and fine will be severe and whatever is prescribed by the Kingdom's laws will be applied to him without tolerance or leniency.

The responsibility of this Ministry is to safeguard the security of pilgrims and citizens and for the land of this Kingdom to be an oasis of plenty and security for anyone who comes to God's holy house or intends to visit the honorable prophet's mosque. [passage omitted]

Silence Shows 'Resentment' Over U.S.-Iran Ties

PM0607115188 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 4 Jul 88 p 7

[Unattributed report: "Iraqi Resentment of U.S. Stands"]

[Text] A well-informed diplomatic source in Baghdad has noted that the Iraqi media ignored the visit of Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle Eastern affairs, thus reflecting strong Iraqi resentment of the change that has occurred recently in the U.S. position on the Iraq-Iran conflict.

The source told AL-TADAMUN that the Iraqis are in possession of confirmed information indicating that the Americans have provided Iran with satellite pictures showing the deployment of Iraqi forces and the scale of the recent Iraqi offensives, which ended with the recapture of the last area occupied by the Iranians on the southern front.

The source added that Iraq has twice expressed its resentment to the U.S. Administration. First, it voiced its anger when the U.S. State Department received a figure who symbolizes Iraqi Kurdish opposition (Jalal al-Talbani). Second, Iraq informed the Americans that it was monitoring the development of the new Iranian-U.S. information cooperation.

According to the diplomatic source, U.S. envoy Murphy was disappointed by the lack of interest shown by Iraqi officials during his visit, which was aimed at offering an apology and convincing the Iraqis that the decision to receive Al-Talbani at the U.S. State Department was a mistake made by some low-ranking employee. In return, as it appears to the diplomat referred to, the Iraqis are linking some matters with the change in the U.S. position.

Among these matters are the appointment of Rafsanjani as commander in chief of the Iranian Armed Forces and the reports released by Western media that Khomeyni is close to death or is suffering from an incurable disease. The Iraqis believe that such reports reflect the Western and U.S. aim of securing his replacement as early as possible, rather than any interest in Khomeyni's approaching death or illness as such.

Saddam Husayn Cables Reagan on National Day

JN0407092088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0736 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Jul (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has sent a congratulatory cable to U.S. President Ronald Reagan on his country's national day. The cable reads: On the anniversary of your country's national day, it pleases us to send to Your Excellency our best congratulations, wishing you good health and happiness, and the American people further progress.

On this occasion, we affirm our hope that the relations of friendship between our countries will be based in accordance with the principles of mutual respect and noninterference in internal affairs to preserve peace in our region and the world.

Reportage on Visits by Egyptian Delegations

Ramadan Receives Military Group

JN0607194088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1630 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Jul (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, has received the military production delegation accompanying Egyptian Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi who is currently visiting Iraq.

During the meeting, they discussed the prospects of Iraqi-Egyptian military cooperation and the importance of expanding this cooperation in the fields of training, manufacturing, exchange of expertise, and information, with the aim of developing Arab military industries.

Taha Yasin Ramadan briefed the fraternal delegation on developments in the military industries field in Iraq. He also informed them of the interest of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn in the activities of the Military Industries Organization [MIO], and also of the eagerness displayed by the president to make available the prerequisites needed for the development of these industries. He also referred to the advanced level attained by the Iraqi military industries in various arms categories.

The first deputy prime minister affirmed that the MIO has scored great successes in the field of military industries—a matter which has had an effective impact on the realization of the victories scored. He added that the future of military industries will be bright and great. He went on to say that developments in this regard will be based on the employment of the most up-to-date technologies. He said that these industries are being managed by Iraqi minds and hands.

Taha Yasin Ramadan briefed the delegation on developments at the war fronts. He affirmed that the victories scored by Iraq since the beginning of the Ramadan Mubarak [Blessed Ramadan] operations and which included the liberation battles of Al-Faw, Al-Shalamjah [Shalamcheh], the Majnun Islands, and the strategic mountain peaks, will shorten the road to ending the war and bringing about peace. He indicated that the Iranian enemy has lost its balance because of its defeats, which are considered a bitter setback sustained by the Iranian rulers.

The Egyptian military delegation voiced its admiration of the Iraqi victories, which have proven the capability of the Iraqi combatants and the effectiveness of their advanced sophisticated weapons—something was proven in the recent battles.

Information Ministers Meet

JN0607194688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1640 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Jul (INA)—Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim met at noon today with Egyptian Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif and the delegation accompanying him.

During the meeting, they discussed ways to develop relations of bilateral information between the two fraternal states on all levels and in a manner that is in harmony with the deep relations binding the two states, with the aim of enhancing joint Arab action.

During the meeting, the two ministers voiced their satisfaction over the level of progress attained in bilateral information cooperation, especially with regards to television and radio programs and the exchange of news conducted by the news agencies of the two fraternal states. They added that this level of cooperation reflects the accomplishments achieved in bilateral cooperation in the economic, cultural, industrial, agricultural, social, scientific, and technical fields.

During the meeting, Latif Nusayyif Jasim paid tribute to developed bilateral relations binding the two fraternal states, the foundations of which were laid by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and his brother President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

Safwat al-Sharif affirmed that the Iraqi information apparatus is the depth of the Egyptian information apparatus and vice versa. He added that these apparatuses are an extension of the ties of fraternity binding Iraq to Egypt.

The meeting was attended by an adviser at the Egyptian Ministry of Information and a number of Iraqi information officials.

'Abd al-Majid on Gulf War

JN0607194988 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1705 GMT 6 Jul

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Jul (INA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has affirmed that the Iraqi military victories bolster the chances for bringing about a comprehensive and just peace.

In a statement to INA, Dr 'Abd al-Majid added that these victories add strength to Iraq's responsible positions, which were manifest in its favorable response to calls for peace and also in its reiteration of its constant readiness to accept all peace initiatives.

'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid indicated that the Arab Republic of Egypt was pleased by the Iraqi Army's victories. He added that Egypt has always affirmed its support for Iraq. He added that the visit paid to Baghdad by President Husni Mubarak on 7 June was another occasion on which Egypt reiterated its positions to His Excellency President Saddam Husayn.

'Abd al-Majid asserted that the current visit by Egyptian Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi to Iraq is an embodiment of the distinguished relations binding the two fraternal states.

Ramadan Receives 'Atif Sidqi

JN0707113988 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1045 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Jul (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, and Egyptian Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi held talks here today in the presence of a number of the visiting Egyptian delegation's members.

During the meetings, the two sides expressed satisfaction over the steps taken so far by the technical committees set up by the joint higher committee for economic, technical, and scientific cooperation.

They stressed the desire of both Iraq and Egypt to promote and expand bilateral cooperation in the interests of joint action.

Taha Yasin Ramadan stressed that the serious spirit that characterized the work of the joint committees embodied the distinguished relations between Iraq and Egypt and reflected the sincere and serious desire of the two countries to develop these relations to create additional bases for broad cooperation between the two countries.

Dr 'Atif Sidqi expressed Egypt's confidence in Iraq's economic, military, and developmental capabilities. He praised the administrative revolution that Iraq is witnessing under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn.

The technical committees are continuing their meetings to increase the level of trade exchange and economic, technical, and scientific cooperation.

Sidqi Concludes Visit

JN0707172688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1506 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Jul (INA)—Egyptian Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi has reiterated Egypt's full support for Iraq in its defense of its land and sovereignty as well as of the Arab nation's dignity and security.

In a statement to INA at the conclusion of his visit to Iraq today, Dr Sidqi voiced confidence that Iraq will achieve futher victories, which will force Iran to sit at the negotiating table and to accept peace. He said that Iran's insistence on continuing the war demonstrates the shortsightedness of its rulers.

The Egyptian prime minister called on Iran to heed the voice of reason and logic and to accept peace in order to avert further defeats and losses.

Dr 'Atif Sidqi voiced pleasure with the results of the first session of the higher joint Iraqi-Egyptian committee. He said the recommendations adopted by the two sides are

full of aspirations which express the will of the leaderships of the two countries and their serious and sincere desire to expand and promote the spheres of joint cooperation in all fields.

He said: Out of our joint belief, we view Iraqi-Egyptian cooperation, understanding, and integration as an important strategic part of the Arab balance of power and for supporting our fateful issues.

Reportage on Visit of PDRY Delegation

Arrives in Baghdad 5 Jul

JN0507220988 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1920 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Jul (INA)—A PDRY delegation under Salih abu Bakr bin Husaynun, PDRY deputy prime minister, energy and minerals minister, and head of the PDRY side of the Iraqi-PDRY joint committee for economic, technical, and trade cooperation, arrived in Baghdad this evening. The joint committee will begin meetings in Baghdad tomorrow.

In a statement to INA, the PDRY minister said that his visit to Baghdad acquires special importance as it comes on the occasion of meetings of the Iraqi-PDRY joint committee on cooperation between the two countries.

The PDRY delegation comprises Hasan Hubaysh, under secretary of the Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Supply; and representatives from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Planning, Finance, Energy and Minerals, and Industry, Trade, and Supply; and the Supreme People's Council Presidium.

Joint Committee Begins Meetings

JN0607120988 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1115 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Jul (INA)—The meetings of the joint committee for economic, trade, and technical cooperation between Iraq and the PDRY began here today. The Iraqi side was led by Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih [al-Rawi] and the PDRY side was led by Salih Abu Bakr bin Husaynun, PDRY deputy prime minister and energy and minerals minister. In two speeches, the two ministers praised efforts exerted to prepare for these meetings to develop relations between the two states in all fields. It was decided to form joint subcommittees to discuss economic, trade, financial, agricultural, and cultural issues. The subcommittees will also discuss a plan to conclude new agreements for trade and economic, technical, and scientifc cooperation between Iraq and PDRY.

Oil Cooperation Discussed

JN0707125888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1040 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Jul (INA)—Oil Minister Isam 'Abd al-Rahim [al-Jalabi] met here today with Salih Abu Bakr bin Husaynun, PDRY deputy prime minister and energy and minerals minister.

During the meeting, discussions dealt with bilateral relations and the exchange of expertise, between Irag and the PDRY, in the oil industry sphere.

On the other hand, the Yemeni energy minister was familiarized with the sections and workshops of the Oil Training Institute during a visit to it today.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Communique No 3,249

JN0707171588 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Communique No 3,249 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 7 July]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant Armed Forces continued their activities last night and today as follows:

1. With the men's zeal and courage, our gigantic Air Force continues to pound the pillars of aggression to prevent the Iranian regime from exploiting its oil resources for its aggressive purposes against our beloved Iraq and glorious Arab nation. Our heroic Air Force carried out today the following two strikes:

   a. At 1114 [0714 GMT] today, the oil installations in the Emam Hasan area were again attacked. The targets were destroyed and set ablaze.

   b. At 1116 today, the oil installations at the Gorreh pumping station were again attacked. The rapacious hawks managed to destroy their targets at the station.

The number of combat missions carried out by our Air Force today to strike at enemy units and to implement the two duties mentioned above totalled 91. After carrying out all these duties, all our planes returned safely to base in God's protection. Thanks and praise be to God for His support. Greetings to the men of our Air Force—command, hawks, officers, and other ranks.

2. Our helicopter gunships today carried out 258 combat missions during which they inflicted further losses on the enemies of our country. They then returned safely to base in God's care.

3. A force from one of our formations in the I Army Corps northern sector raided enemy positions opposite them. It managed to kill six of the scoundrels and destroy four infantry positions. Another force in the same sector stormed a number of enemy positions. It destroyed them completely, killed or injured their occupants, and blew up one ammunition dump.

4. Nine of the enemy personnel were killed, one observation post and one infantry position were destroyed, and one ammunition dump was blown up in the Special I Army Corps sector—the Allahu Akbar forces. Four others were killed in the II Army Corps central sector.

5. One enemy drone was downed, one enemy personnel was killed, one vehicle was set ablaze, one infantry position was destroyed, and one ammunition dump was blown up in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah. Two others were killed, one gun emplacement destroyed, and one ammunition dump was blown up in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 7 July 1988

3 Maritime Targets Raided

JN0807055988 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 8 Jul 88

[Military spokesman's statement dated 8 July]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. God grants us a new victory over our enemies while we proceed on the sound course to defend our beloved Iraq and our great Arab nation. In continuation of our course to destroy the Iranian regime's oil resources, which it exploits for aggression, our heroic Air Force last night dealt accurate and effective hits against three maritime targets off the Iranian coast; two were large targets, and the third a very large one.

After carrying out their mission, all our aircraft safely returned to base, God be praised.

[Dated] 8 July 1988

INLA Commander Cites Captured Documents

JN0107145888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1350 GMT 1 Jul 88

[Text] Paris, 1 Jul (INA)—Mas'ud Rajavi, leader of the Iranian opposition Mojahedin-e Khalq organization, has urged the commanders of the Iranian forces to join the Iranian National Liberation Army [INLA] as quickly as possible. In a message distributed by the INLA's office in Paris, Rajavi said that any service in the Iranian Army means participation in the regime's crimes against the Iranian people.

Rajavi pointed out that during its operation to liberate Mehran, the INLA seized more than 10,000 pages of important documents and classified military letters, some of which show that the Iranian regime had mobilized large military and human forces to repulse the offensive, which led to the liberation of Mehran on 19 June.

Rajavi, the commander in chief of the INLA, also said that the Iranian regime had issued strict orders to Colonel al-Masi [name as received], commander of the 16th Armored Division, to kill Iranian soldiers who were fleeing the battlefield as a result of the sweeping offensive of the INLA.

Rajavi explained that these documents show the depth of anxiety of the Iranian regime's forces as a result of the continuation of the war and possible offenses against their positions. He added that one of the classified documents seized by the INLA indicates a growing number of defectors from the Iranian regime's forces, as well as a shortage in military personnel. He also pointed out that all these documents and classified letters will be publicized later.

Dismissals Follow Officers' Objections to War

PM0707142788 Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 24 Jun 88 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Iraqi Regime Continues Ruthless Actions Against Army Officers Rebelling Against Saddam"]

[Text] Reports emanating from Iraq indicate that a state of unrest is prevailing in Iraqi Army circles as a result of the regime's ruthless actions against senior officers rebelling against Saddam's orders and rejecting his destructive policy, aimed at continuing the mad war against Iran, which has resulted in heavy losses and disasters in both manpower and materiel.

The Iraqi regime's leader recently issued a decision dismissing a number of officers from the service and confiscating their movable property and real estate.

The names of some officers have been determined:

Brigadier General Dakhil 'Abd al-Amir Hassun, Colonel 'Abd al-Jabbar Salih, Lieutenant Colonel Husayn Jasim, Lieutenant 'Ali Farhan Hadid, Lt Hakam Yusuf, and Lt Yusuf Fu'ad Yusuf.

Arbitrary dismissals from the Army include those of Brig Gen Hamid Findi Khalaf and Lt Col Shakir Mahmud Muhammad.

Information emanating from Iraq confirms that the Saddam regime is terrified by the growing phenomenon of rebellion within the Iraqi Army. The decisions to expel the officers mentioned were made in response to their rebellion against Saddam's orders and refusal to comply with them.

National Assembly Elections Set for 31 Aug

JN0207130188 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1230 GMT 2 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Jul (INA)—It was officially announced here today that National Assembly elections will be held on 31 August.

IDF Source Admits 'Uprising' May Last for 'Years'

TA0707164288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Text] A senior source in the IDF Central Command said the uprising in the territories might last for years, and that the IDF is organizing accordingly. In a briefing to military correspondents, he said the executive branch realizes the situation will not return to what it was previously.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the senior source believes that violence can be reduced and normal life assured for the Jewish settlers in the territories and Arab inhabitants who want it. He pointed out that there are several new phenomena in the territories, including the fact that wanted people are giving themselves up to the authorities, and inhabitants are initiating activities to maintain order to avoid the demolition of houses by the security forces.

The source said that many policemen in the territories are local inhabitants. It is therefore difficult to require them to carry out missions they cannot implement.

He said the terrorist organizations are pressuring the inhabitants to carry out attacks, but they do not have large quantities of arms. Without them they cannot convert the intifada [uprising] into an armed struggle. The source also pointed out that Jordan was shocked when the uprising broke out, but recently again began to give financial and other aid to the inhabitants of the territories.

Soviet Views Moscow Consular Delegation's Role

TA0507125688 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 5 Jul 88 pp 1, 12

[Report by Amnon Kapeliuk]

[Text] Moscow—In 2 weeks the Israeli consular delegation will arrive in Moscow.

This was said yesterday by Vladimir Polyakov, head of the Middle East department in the Soviet Foreign Ministry, in a discussion with the YEDI'OT AHARONOT correspondent.

Among Polyakov's main points:

—The role of the Israeli consular delegation will be restricted to checking the condition of the Israeli Embassy building for which Israel has been paying rent since relations were severed in 1967. The Israeli Foreign Ministry also wanted the delegation to deal with visas and the emigration of Soviet Jews, "but we refused."

—There will be no political contacts between members of the consular delegation and Soviet authorities. "Political contacts will continue through Tarasov, who is responsible for the Israel desk in the Middle East department of the Foreign Ministry, and Dr Nimrod Novik, the Israeli foreign minister's political adviser. That is the appropriate level for contacts according to the state of relations between the two countries."

—The exodus of Jews from the USSR will continue in accordance with the Soviet Government's policy to permit emigration on a humanitarian basis. "Nevertheless, we flatly reject the proposal to send the emigrants to Romania and then directly to Israel. The USSR cannot compel people to go where they do not want to go."

—There was an attempt to get Shim'on Peres an invitation to visit Moscow. Polyakov's estimation: "There will be no such visit if there is not a real change in Peres' positions, "although he has several positive points which arouse interest."

Iraq Signaling Movement Toward 'Moderate Camp'

TA0107122688 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 July 88 p B2

[Article by 'Aqiva Eldar: "Jerusalem, This is Baghdad"]

[Excerpt] Any politician worth his salt, from the prime minister to the last candidate on any of the Knesset lists, has not concluded a conversation or speech without referring to the PRC missiles. In the barrage of words on the missile issue the important developments in the region have been lost.

The most important development has been the series of Iraqi victories over Iran. This is a fatal danger to the fanatics in Tehran, and another reminder to the supporters of the "Iranian connection" in Israel. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres told Michael Armacost, the U.S. under secretary of state who visited Israel last week, that Israel does not weep over Iran's defeat. "Fundamentalism thrives on victories," Peres explained. Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said this week in the United States, where in the past he had said that Israel hopes the Iran-Iraq war will last forever, that the war does not contribute to peace in the region or Israel's security.

Peres and Rabin's remarks are not slips of the tongue. They are responding to many messages which have been arriving from Baghdad in various ways. The Iraqis are prepared to pay a fair price for an Israeli policy, either public or otherwise, which would be more balanced on the conflict with Iran. The following is a report recently placed on the desks of several Jerusalem officials: "Iraq recognizes Israel's legitimate security interests," an Israeli diplomat in an important European country wrote, quoting a former ambassador representing that country in Iraq and Jordan. The man recently visited Baghdad and Amman and reported on his impressions

before leaving for Washington to participate in a seminar organized by the CIA and the State Department on the subject. The following are his impressions:

—Iraq has abandoned the rejectionist front and has moved closer to the moderate camp, especially Jordan and Egypt.

—Iraq has freed itself from its total dependence on the USSR and is now as dependent on the United States as it is the USSR.

—Because of its desire to become acceptable to the West, Iraq is no longer interested in being a center for international terrorism. This is the reason for its second thoughts about Abu Nidal and his colleagues.

—Iraq supports Husayn's peace moves and is prepared to agree to any settlement acceptable to the Palestinians.

The Western diplomat also had reassuring remarks for Israelis who fear that an end to the Iran-Iraq war will be the beginning of a war by each against Jerusalem. "Even if the war ends soon, which does not seem likely, Iraq will continue to try to move closer to the moderate Arab camp for two reasons: They will need huge amounts of money to rehabilitate the country after the war and they will get it only from the oil countries; Iraq will continue in the future to be concerned about Iran's aggressive intentions."

The ambassador reported that the Iraqis believe that even after Khomeyni's death his successor will have no choice but to continue the war, at least for the short term. An immediate end to the war would undermine his credibility among the Iranian people and be interpreted as the failure of the revolution.

The Western visitor said the Gulf war strengthened the position of Saddam Husayn who made sure the Shi'ites in his country remained loyal. The Shi'ites are not great supporters of Saddam Husayn, but what they see in Tehran inspires them even less. The Iraqi president can therefore permit himself to make far reaching statements on the Israeli-Arab conflict. [passage omitted]

PLO Radio Begins Broadcast Tests From Sidon

TA0707125788 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 5 Jul 88 p 1

[Text] Sidon—It has been learned from a Palestinian source that the PLO yesterday began broadcast tests of a radio station in the Sidon area, in southern Lebanon. The station will aim its programs primarily to the residents of the occupied territories.

The radio, which calls itself "The Palestine radio, the PLO radio," beams its broadcasts on 1190 megahertz [as published], medium wave. The station has been set up in the Sidon area, 43 km south of Beirut. This area contains the highest concentration of Palestinians in Lebanon—some 100,000.

Editorial Urges End To Bloodshed in Lebanon

TA0207051288 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 30 Jun 88 p 1

[Editorial: "Stop This Bleeding"]

[Text] Yesterday international news agencies reported the deployment of dissident elements at the gates of the Burj al-Barajinah refugee camp in the Lebanese capital. These reports coincided with statements by the leaders of these renegades warning of new massacres in this camp similar to those that occurred in the camp of heroism, Shatila.

This deployment and these statements are proof of the ongoing episodes of the tragic drama from which our people are suffering by the hands of those one assumes to be brothers. In these bad times for the Arabs, however, these supposed brothers have persuaded themselves to play treacherous and deceptive roles in order to satisfy regimes that have been basically established and founded to betray their peoples and kill their children.

With the continued implementation of the chapters and episodes of the conspiracy against our people in the refugee camps, Arab reaction, as usual, ranged from utter silence to cowardly collusion to timid criticism.

Palestinian families are leaving the Burj al-Barajinah refugee camp. Only 4,000 of the camp's inhabitants, which numbered 17,000, have remained there, and this figure is decreasing by the minute.

The displacement of residents of the Burj al-Barajinah refugee camp in anticipation of its shelling and destruction will not be the end of the tragedy. Mr Salah Khalaf [Abu Iyad] has affirmed that the conspiracy aims at the entire Palestinian presence in Lebanon, that the turn of Palestinian refugee camps in south Lebanon will come later, and that the Syrian regime is preparing for this.

We ask the rulers of Damascus and their mercenary puppets: Who benefits from emptying the camps of their residents and displacing them once more? Who benefits from destroying the camps and evacuating the fighters from them? Is this your path to the liberation, freedom, and socialism that you extol day and night in your radios and newspapers?

With the extension of the fire of the traitors and renegades, all Palestinian factions are required to raise their voices, confront the conspiracy, and defeat the conspirators. This is an appeal from the heart of every Palestinian in the occupied territories to stop the bleeding from the Palestinian wound.

Abu Sharif Document 'Fruit of the Uprising'

TA0607182288 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 5 Jul 88 pp 1, 8

[Editorial: "The Clear Document and the Road to Peace"]

[Text] Bassam Abu Sharif, Yasir 'Arafat's press aide, is making further statements in order to analyze, explain, and clarify his important political "article" published in U.S. newspapers a few days after the uprising summit in Algiers. Since its publication, this article has represented the most prominent new Palestinian document that addresses clearly the issue of a political solution of the Palestinian problem on the basis of the PNC resolutions as well as those of the extraordinary Arab summit in Algiers.

This "document" aroused widespread reaction among world public opinion, particularly in the United States, but the Reagan administration and the Israeli Government did not find in the document any room for change in their old official positions. Observers noticed an almost total Israeli silence on the document, so much so that even the Israeli news media was forced to treat it with extreme caution after it was categorically rejected by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

This Israeli rejection, however, acquired a new shape when Shim'on Peres, for example, viewed this document as "merely a Palestinian means to achieve U.S. recognition." This means that the Israeli Alignment side represented by Shim'on Peres, which is moving basically within the framework of the call for convening an international conference, was not able to go beyond the Likud's position in rejecting everything, especially the proposed international conference as well as PLO participation in the talks under UN auspices.

In a recent statement Bassam Abu Sharif said that this Israeli rejection by the two coalition partners, the Labor Party and Herut, represents a "tragedy." It is necessarily a tragedy for the process of a comprehensive and just peace in the region. If, as observers have noted, the pressures of the Israeli elections at this stage are bolstering a more extreme Israeli position toward any sort of peace in the region as a result of the uprising's radicalization of Israeli public opinion, the Israeli Labor Party could have at least found in the document an opening inside Israel for its slogan about the international conference, gathering further electoral support from it. What happened, however, was entirely different. The Labor Party "merged" with Herut in ignoring the document at first, then in rejecting it within the framework of a unified Israeli position.

For its part, the Reagan administration has not yet taken any step that transcends the Israeli public position and, for that matter, is not qualified to adopt any new steps. This despite the fact that the document is continuing to have a clear impact in U.S. public opinion and is attracting further interest and support with the aim of fostering an official "cycle of dialogue" between the PLO and the U.S. Administration.

As for the Palestinian opposition to this document, it is expected from parties that are not included within the PLO's framework. Criticism and opposition within the framework of the known Palestinian principles and regulations is also expected from some factions inside the PLO through the democratic right of every faction.

In light of this Palestinian opposition, the document acquires further importance and impact. It strengthens and deepens the national Palestinian dialogue based, at the current stage, on the uprising in the occupied territories. The document reinforces its importance by providing political cover to the uprising's goals on one hand, and to the results achieved so far on the other.

As for those who in their opposition think that the document came at an inopportune time because of the uprising, they are clearly mistaken. On the contrary, the document is basically the fruit of the uprising. This is precisely its time in order to confront all those who reject the process of a comprehensive and just peace in the region, and to test all the slogans raised by this or that party. The Algiers summit was clear in this respect, namely in the timing of its convocation and through its resolutions upon which the document does not encroach. Rather the document consolidates and reinforces these resolutions to the benefit of the uprising and formulates its political aims very clearly.

Anyone who supports the resolutions of the uprising summit in Algiers is an automatic supporter of Abu Sharif's document. Why should one differentiate between the resolutions and the document?

'Uprising' May Cause Defense Stockpile Cuts

TA0607084888 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 6 Jul 88 p 4

[Report by defense reporter Kenneth Kaplan]

[Text] Unless the IDF is reimbursed for the expenses incurred during the seven-month Palestinian uprising, it will be forced to cut back on its arms procurement programmes, according to Aluf [Major General] Menahem Eynan, chief of the IDF's Logistics Branch.

Stockpiles of arms and ammunition have been allowed to run down in recent years because of cutbacks in the defence budget, he said. The 1987 State Comptroller's Report, in its section on preparedness for war, criticized the Defence Ministry for depleting the stores to soften the blow of the budget cuts.

The IDF must "close the gap created in the last three to four years" between the current and optimal levels, Eynan said. He told defence reporters that it was not yet clear how quickly the IDF would be able to replenish its stores. He said the IDF would decide in the coming months how much money it would be able to devote to this purpose.

He also said the Logistics Branch would not undertake any major building projects in the near future, and would trim its manpower to free more funds for the development and procurement of materiel.

Eynan said that the IDF would have to step up its efforts to protect its rear service and supply bases in the wake of the threat created by growing missile capability in the region. The problem, though not new, has taken on an added urgency, he said.

Eynan addressed reporters following a visit to an exhibition of new IDF weaponry set up to mark Logistics Branch Day this week.

Among the major systems in advanced stages of development and testing is the Merkava Mark III, which Eynan said would appear soon in the IDF order of battle. A number of the tanks have already come off the production line, he said.

He said the IDF, which leads Western armies in the emphasis it places on upgrading existing equipment, would continue its work in this sphere. He cited the British-built Centurion tank—shot, in Hebrew—which is being upgraded for the fourth time by the IDF and which will be able to "hold its own" on the battlefield beyond the year 2000.

Saudis To Fund Construction of Hospital in Gaza

TA0707191788 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Text] Saudi Arabia will donate $25 million to set up a modern 250-bed hospital in the Gaza Strip, our correspondent Victor Nahmias has learned. In reply to a question, Shmu'el Goren, the coordinator of government activities in the territories, said approval was given within the policy of permitting projects to improve the living conditions of the inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip through foreign funding as long as it does not come from hostile elements.

Our correspondent has learned that Muhammad Basyuni, Egyptian ambassador to Israel, acted as a mediator between Hajj Tawfiq Yadzi, a Gazan industrialist and the initiator of the project, and the coordinator of activities in the territories. Construction of the hospital, which will be located in the center of Gaza, will begin in the fall.

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

Incidents, Arrests 4 Jul

TA0507094588 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 5 Jul 88 pp 1, 4

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Stone-throwing incidents were reported throughout the West Bank yesterday. Palestinian sources said a 19-year-old was shot and seriously wounded in Qabatiyah near Janin, and two other youths were wounded in clashes in the town yesterday and Sunday night. Military sources said one youth was wounded Sunday evening.

The Palestinian sources reported that three people were wounded in clashes at the village of Dayr al-Ghusun near Tulkarm. They said troops uprooted trees at Dayr Istiya, near Nabulus, after a petrol bomb was thrown Sunday night at an Israeli car. After the incident, settlers entered the village and fired shots at the home of the mukhtar, according to the sources.

At Bani Na'im, near Hebron, one person was wounded by gunfire and several others were injured by teargas and rubber bullets, the Palestinian sources said. Protests and tyre-burning were also reported in Ramallah, in Al-Birah, and in the adjacent Al-Am'ari refugee camp.

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 5 Jul on page 2 adds: "Arab sources reported last night that during the past few days, the IDF has begun a new wave of arrests in the West Bank. The sources said that the Army has set up many roadblocks, especially in Samaria. Hundreds of people have been ordered to identify themselves and many of them have been detained."]

[Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 5 July in a page 2 report adds: "The commander of the Al-Zahiriyah detention center was fired following complaints by various visiting international delegations about the inhuman conditions in which security prisoners are being held and also about cases of harassment. Security sources said that he has been replaced by a professional Army commander in order to improve the conditions in the facility."]

E. Jerusalem Schools Closed

TA0607173388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] The Jerusalem police today closed down two schools in East Jerusalem where disturbances took place: a school in Jabal al-Mukabar and a school in the Old

City. There were riots in several places in East Jerusalem, and stones were thrown at buses. Damage was caused to a bus near French Hill, but there were no casualties. The police detained 12 suspects in the course of the disturbances in East Jerusalem.

A Molotov cocktail was thrown at a police vehicle which was traveling on the main road in Gaza. There were no casualties and no damage was caused.

Firebombs Thrown in Jerusalem

TA0607201088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] Here is a report just in from our correspondent Moti Amir: Two firebombs were thrown at a bus driving on King George Street in downtown Jerusalem, but there were no casualties. As said, the two firebombs were thrown at a bus in the middle of the city, but there were no casualties. A large police force is still on the scene.

2 Arabs Sentenced to Jail

TA0607194888 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] The Jerusalem Magistrate Court meted out stiff sentences to two 16-year-old Arabs from East Jerusalem who were convicted of having taken part in disturbances. One of them was convicted for setting tires on fire and throwing stones, and was sentenced to 1 year in prison. The other was sentenced to 8 months in jail for taking part in disturbances.

92 Freed in 'Goodwill Gesture'

TA0707191088 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Excerpt] Ninety-two administrative detainees and security prisoners were released today by the IDF and the Civilian Administration in the Gaza Strip. Fifty three prisoners who were sentenced on security charges before and during the uprising have already been released after being pardoned on the remainder of their sentences.

Thirty-nine administrative detainees are being released right now from Qezi'ot prison. Our correspondent Victor Nahmias quotes senior military sources in Gaza as saying that the move is a goodwill gesture in view of the continued quiet in the Gaza Strip, and in the hope that it will contribute to maintaining quiet in the future. [passage omitted]

4 Wardens Stabbed in Gaza

TA0807073188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 8 Jul 88

[Text] Four Prisons Service officers were stabbed in Gaza this morning. Three are in serious condition. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that a Gaza resident stabbed the four this morning at the visitors terminal of the Gaza Prison in the Civilian Administration building. The incident occurred during family visiting hours. The man brandished two knives and seriously injured three officers from the Prisons Service, gashing a fourth in the face. Two of the victims were transferred by helicopter to the hospital in Beersheba. The two others were evacuated to the Ashqelon hospital. Prisons Service personnel caught the man and handed him over to the security forces.

2 Soldiers Wounded in Nabulus

TA0807092188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 8 Jul 88

[Text] Curfews have been imposed on four Judaea and Samaria locations: The towns of Bayt Sahur and Qabatiyah and the Al-Jalazun and Janin refugee camps.

Two Nabulus youths were wounded by IDF gunfire this morning. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the youths attacked an IDF unit in the casbah with rocks, bottles, and slingshots. According to a report from the Nabulus hospital, two soldiers were later injured by firearms.

In Bethlehem, a Molotov cocktail was hurled near the police headquarters last night. No one was hurt and no damage was caused.

Taxmen Meet 'Gesture of Defiance'

TA0807092888 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 8 Jul 88 p 2

[Report by staff and agencies]

[Excerpt] Tax collectors accompanied by about 300 troops entered 50 homes in Bayt Sahur, near Bethlehem, at 5 a.m. yesterday, seized identitiy cards and said they would not be returned until the Palestinians paid back taxes.

Troops also impounded the cars of some Arabs, apparently for non-payment of vehicle licensing and other fees.

The move prompted about 250 Arab residents to hand in their identity cards in protest, an unprecented gesture of defiance against military authorities. [passage omitted]

Kakh Activist Convicted of Multiple Offenses

TA0707174688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Text] Following a plea bargaining, a Kakh activist from Jerusalem was convicted today by the district court on 8 of 10 charges against him. Among other things, he was convicted of setting St Paul's Church on fire, smashing car windshields, slashing tires, and painting blasphemous graffiti on the television building, the mayor's house, and a Peace Now activist's home. His sentence will be handed down at the beginning of September.

Herut Candidates for 12th Knesset Listed

TA0707125088 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 7 Jul 88 p 1

[Report by Bina Barzel]

[Text] Following are the names in the first three septets of Herut's elected candidates for the 12th Knesset: First septet:
1. David Levi
2. Ari'el Sharon
3. Moshe Arens
4. Moshe Qatzav
5. Binyamin Netanyahu
6. David Magen
7. Beni Begin Second septet:
1. Dan Meridor
2. Eliyahu Ben-Elisar
3. Ya'aqov Shamay
4. Roni Milo
5. Hayim Corfu
6. Ehud Olmert
7. 'Ovadya 'Eli Third septet:
1. Mikha Reisser
2. Rubi Rivlin
3. Yig'al Kohen
4. Mikha'el Eytan
5. Yehoshu'a Matza
6. Gid'on Gadot
7. Dov Shilansky

Herut Vote Shows Shamir Has 'Little Influence'

TA0707123688 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 7 Jul 88 p 1

["Analysis by Menahem Shalev: "The Fight Between the Camps, Not the Candidates"]

[Excerpts] Judging by yesterday's Herut Central Committee elections, Prime Minister Shamir has very little influence over his own party activists. Most of them simply ignored his recommendation for the composition of the party's top echelon.

The much-vaunted Herut internal democracy is no longer functioning on a personal basis. At Herzliyya yesterday, the emotions, strategies, tricks, deals and votes were all focused on the great battle between the camps, and not between the candidates. [passage omitted].

Yesterday's elections for the top of the Herut list proved that Shamir's recommendations notwithstanding, allegiance to the camp, and aversion to rivals, are the strongest sentiments driving Herut Central Committee delegates.

Shamir had recommended that the committee vote for Levi-Arens-Sharon, in that order. But the overwhelming majority of the delegates simply ignored him. 626 Arens followers voted for Arens for first place. Because of Herut's complex voting procedures, any votes given Levi for other positions did not figure in the count.

Similarly, more than 500 delegates ignored Shamir and voted for David Magen and Eliyahu Elisar, rather than for Arens. Bearing in mind that votes were also cast for other candidates in the first three places, the estimate in Herzliyya yesterday was that over 70 per cent of the delegates ignored Shamir's call.

Perhaps more significant in the long run is the fact that the computerized tabulation of the votes shows that Sharon may not be the most popular man in Herut, but he is definitely the least ostracized.

In the voting for the first three places, Sharon received 200 more ballots than Levi, 300 more than Arens. In the total vote for the first septet, Sharon picked up 1,503 votes, 300 more than his nearest rival, Moshe Qatzav.

Arens supporters detest Levi, Levi people can't bring themselves to vote for Arens, but both can vote for Sharon.

Sharon, the master tactician, managed to enjoy the best of both worlds yesterday. He stuck a deal with Levi, and thus overtook Arens, but his pre-voting posturing as a man above the fray enticed voters from the Arens camp as well.

Arens supporters did not hide their disappointment with their own leader. "He is a yefe nefesh (bleeding heart)," said one, using a term usually reserved for Herut's rivals on the left.

If Sharon scored a double victory, Arens suffered a double loss. First, he withdrew from the contest with Levi, earning derisive jeers. Then he put his trust in Shamir's recommendations, and miscalculated. "He is a loser," said many in Herzliyya yesterday.

Some 200 voting slips were invalidated in yesterday's first round voting, more than 10 percent of the total votes. Many of the delegates simply failed to understand the complicated voting procedures and forms. The 200 forms perhaps made all the difference in the world. Only 19 voters separated Sharon from Arens for second place, only seven stood between Binyamin ("Bibi") Netanyahu and David Magen for the fifth slot, and only 27 between Beni Begin and Ben-Elisar for the seventh slot.

Thus, the "total" democracy in Herut fell prey yesterday to strong camp allegiances—and to the computer age.

Tehiya Elects First Four on Knesset List

TA0707125488 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 7 Jul 88 p A2

[Report by Menahem Rahat]

[Excerpt] All four Tehiya Knesset members—Professor Yuva' Ne'eman, Ge'ula Kohen, Gershon Shafat, and Eli'ezer Waldman—were reelected yesterday to the first four places in the movement's list for the next Knesset. The voting took place during a meeting of the movement's plenum in the Bet Harofe building in Tel Aviv. [passage omitted]

Tzomet Holds Elections; Adopts Resolutions

TA0407103388 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 4 Jul 88 p A9

[Report by Yehuda Goren]

[Text] Tzomet favors population exchanges as a means to end violent confrontations and hostile activities. Jews living in Arab countries would be allowed to emigrate to Israel, while Arabs who so desire would be allowed to move to Arab countries. This was one of the resolutions adopted yesterday during Tzomet's convention held in Qiryat Shemona, in solidarity with the border settlements. The convention reelected Refa'el Eytan chairman of the movement, and elected 150 central committee members (with an option to increase their number to 171), an audit committee, and a tribunal. Tzomet's central committee will convene on 13 July to elect a secretariat and a list of candidates for the next Knesset.

The convention also agreed on the following resolutions: Israel's rule over all of Eretz Yisra'el would not be negotiable; a national state of emergency would be declared, allowing the government to take measures to overcome the crises in education and health, agriculture, and the economy; top priority would be given to education and privileged status would be granted to teachers; emergency regulations would be enacted allowing the government to impose law and order in all of Eretz Yisra'el and to deport anybody operating against the State of Israel and its citizens, first and foremost the 600 men who were released in the prisoners' exchange with Ahmad Jibril.

Citizens Rights Movement Presents Platform

TA0307165988 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Report by Yaron Deqel]

[Excerpt] Precisely 4 months before the elections, the Citizens Rights Movement [CRM] has presented its political platform. It contains several interesting points including an explicit reference to a Palestinian state. The CRM states that if the Palestinian people decide in favor of such a state, Israel will accept its decision. Jerusalem would remain Israel's unified capital, although according to the CRM, its status is open for negotiation. The national and religious needs of Jerusalem residents would be taken into consideration.

The platform supports a withdrawal from the territories, demilitarization until peace is achieved, and—for the first time in the CRM platform—a reference to the PLO. The platform demands that the PLO recognize Israel's right for a sovereign and secure existence, in order to enable the organization to participate in negotiations as the representative of the Palestinian people. A point not mentioned in the platform is the demand that the PLO abandon terrorism. [passage omitted]

IDF Reveals New Submachine Gun, Vehicles

TA0507151388 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 5 Jun 88 p 2

[Report by Dani Sade]

[Text] A gravel launcher and a new submachine gun were revealed yesterday at the IDF logistics equipment exhibition. The gravel launcher is mounted on a medium-sized vehicle which provides the forces with mobility, and is designed to clear barriers and disperse demonstrations. It is equipped with special gear against stones and firebombs, canisters that fire rubber bullets, and has a stand for three Galil assault rifles, a shovel that clears road barriers, fire resistant asbestos blankets, and rests on tires made of material not easily punctured.

The jeep that was on exhibit is covered with a net to protect it against firebombs.

The Military Industries manufacture the new, light 5.56-mm submachine gun, called the Negev. It is fed by a feed belt from a cartridge box or pouch, or a Galil rifle, or an M-16 magazine. The gun has two models: one with a 1,020-mm barrel and the other with a shorter, 890-mm barrel. It weighs 6.8 kg and can fire up to 900 bullets per minute.

Briefs

New Lebanon Liaison Officer

Colonel Ze'ev Zikhrin will be appointed today as commander of the Liaison Unit to Lebanon and promoted to the rank of brigadier general. He is replacing Brigadier General David Agmon who is slated to be appointed to a senior position in the IDF soon. [Excerpt] [*TA0207075288 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 1 Jul 88 p 2*]

Persian Coke, Hashish

Over 600 grams of Persian coke were seized and two men suspected of smuggling the drug were arrested by the special police unit in the coastal plain. About 4 kg of this type of drug have been seized in the area since the beginning of the year. [Excerpt] [*TA0707130088 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 4 Jul 88 p 4*]

Prime Minister Receives Arab League's Klibi

JN0607215288 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i received Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi at his office this morning. During the meeting, they discussed current Arab developments. They also reviewed means to support and bolster Arab solidarity in light of the resolutions of the Arab summit conference which was held recently in Algiers.

Klibi expressed his thanks and apreciation for the distinguished Jordanian role under His Majesty King Husayn in supporting and bolstering Arab solidarity and to achieve a unified Arab stand against threats and dangers facing the Arab nation. The Arab League secretary general praised Jordan's role in supporting the institutions of joint Arab action in light of the meetings of the Arab Economic and Social Council and the Council of Arab Economic Unity, currently being held in Amman.

Trade Minister on 'Slow Economic Growth'

JN0207150988 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 Jul 88

[Randa Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Studying joint Jordanian-Syrian projects and developing them for the future will be the focal points of the discussions which Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, who is currently in Damascus, will hold today and tomorrow. Al-Rifa'i, along with his Syrian counterpart Al-Zu'bi, will chair the work of the Joint Syrian-Jordanian Higher Committee which will meet with the participation of the ministers of industry, trade, finance, and interior in both countries.

Jordan seeks to widen the base of investment inside the Kingdom by facilitating and improving inter-Arab cooperation in various fields. Hamdi al-Tabba', Jordanian minister of trade and industry, who left Amman this morning with Al-Rifa'i, stated that Jordan is in the process of reviewing the law on the encouragement of investment and its procedures so that the Jordanian and Arab investor will not enter complicated channels limiting the success of projects, indicating that agricultural industry lies at the top of the Jordanian Government's concerns.

Al-Tabba' affirmed that there is no economic problem in Jordan, but there is slow economic growth here and in the region. The cause of this slow economic growth according to Al-Tabba', is the world wide drop in oil prices, Arab aid, and Jordanian expatriate remittances in addition to the Iraq-Iran war. He added that the Jordanian economy has managed to adapt itself to the latest regional developments and has taken measures which limited the impact of the economic recession. The most recent measures have been the instructions of the Central Bank of Jordan on controlling financial and monetary markets in Jordan, which Al-Tabba' described as necessary measures at this stage.

On another level, Al-Tabba' said that the intention now is to increase tariffs on imports intead of applying a total ban to encourage local industries. He said that Jordan will exempt imported raw materials essential for industries from duty and reassess the customs' tariff for goods being imported at the moment and processed in the future. So that these industries will be given comfortable customs protection to enable them to stand on their own feet in the local market. There will also be a generous subsidization to enable Jordanian products to establish themselves in the Arab and European markets.

U.S., Israel Response To Abu Sharif Call Urged

JN2506102588 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 25 Jun 88 p 15

["An Issue and Opinion" column: "What After Abu Sharif's Article and Khalid al-Hasan's Assurances?" by Salamah 'Ukur]

[Text] Bassam Abu Sharif's statements and U.S. and Israeli—and subsequently Palestinian—reactions to them indicate there are initial signs of Palestinian, Arab, U.S., and perhaps Israeli political moves in several directions and on several levels.

As Shultz' mission and proposals have reached an impasse and failed to achieve any notable success, these various quarters moved to fill the political vacuum.

Abu Sharif's article has severely shaken the political stage. It opened wide the eyes of political circles in Washington and Tel Aviv and made them appear stunned and surprised, believing and disbelieving. Yet what Abu Sharif said in his article was neither new nor surprising. It was a hesitant and shy reiteration of what 'Arafat himself had said on several occasions in the early days of the uprising and long before it.

Before the uprising, the PLO tried very hard and made indefatigable efforts to wrest U.S., and even Israeli, recognition. It showed willingness to negotiate with the Americans and with the Israelis. It extended indirect bridges, at times through Israeli figures, and at other times through leftist Israeli movements.

However, the Americans and the Israelis proved to be the main obstacle in the way of bringing about such meetings. They obdurately and persistently refused to recognize the PLO or meet with it.

PLO participation in one form or another in all the peace initiatives, efforts, and mediations was the principal obstacle to achieving any results. That fact is well known to the PLO which is fully aware of the reasons for such U.S. and Israeli reaction.

It is not an exaggeration to say that the absence of U.S. recognition of the PLO was one of the PLO's big political worries which it sought for a long time to remove.

The PLO is fully aware of the significance of the U.S. role and its influence and effect on Israel and the region. It views U.S. recognition as an achievement of struggle or a political success that must be attained.

It also rightly views Israeli recognition of the PLO's representation of the Palestinian people as a political victory that cuts short the distance toward achieving its goals. However, Washington and Tel Aviv have firmly prevented the attainment of such a goal.

Washington or Israel are being obviously dramatic when they show astonishment or surprise at Abu Sharif's article. The uprising, has changed many of the previous views and achieved astonishing political results. It has improved the stamina of the Palestinian leaders and enabled them to publicize their worries in a louder voice and to advocate their views with greater confidence.

Thus the response of the Palestinian official Khalid al-Hasan in THE WASHINGTON TIMES was clear in corroborating and confirming what Abu Sharif said in his article.

Thanks to the uprising, the PLO now believes it holds a strong card that it can use in the political theater of the peaceful settlement. It appears the PLO is fully convinced of the need to exploit the uprising politically as of now, and that is a positive and constructive approach that shows alertness, awareness, and a great understanding of the new situation.

Jordan had called at an early stage for the need to exploit the uprising politically so that it will yield its fruit and progress can be made toward a just, comprehensive, and lasting settlement as soon as possible.

Now that the ball is in the Israeli-U.S. court following Abu Sharif's call and following Khalid al-Hasan's affirmation and clarification, will Washington or Tel Aviv respond to that call, and how will they respond?

If there is anything to fear from the Palestinian call it is that it may smack of "separatism" and unilateral action removed from the climate of Arab understanding that resulted in the Amman and Algiers summits. It is the fear that the PLO falls into the very pitfall it had repeatedly warned against.

However, if the PLO insists on the condition that any meeting or negotiations are held only within the international conference, then that is likely to remove any possible apprehensions.

Islamic Leader Urges Attacks on U.S. Interests

LD0707174888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Text] According to a report from the central news unit, Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, the leader of the Islamic Unification Movement of Lebanon, has said: With its missile attack on the passenger airliner of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the United States has proven that she is the enemy of humanity. He adds: By what authority does the United States trample on the rights of nations, and through what justification does she have a military presence in the waters of the Persian Gulf, which is thousands of miles from the United States.

The leader of the Islamic Unification Movement of Lebanon called on Islamic nations and other nations of the world to make U.S. organizations and interests the target of their attacks as long as the U.S. government thinks it is justifiable to massacre Muslims and other human beings.

Pro-'Arafat Forces Ousted From Burj al-Barajinah

Syrians Arrest Palestinians

JN0707151088 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1400 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Text] In a statement to our radio, an official Palestinian spokesman said the Burj al-Barajinah camp has, since this morning, been the target of heavy bombardment and attempts to storm it. The Syrian forces are participating directly in this attack and the camp is resisting such attempts with rare courage. The spokesman added that new proof of the Syrian regime's involvement in the U.S.-Israeli design to liquidate the Palestinian nationalist presence in the camps in Lebanon is the action by the Syrian forces this afternoon in arresting a group of Palestinian officers. They were on their way from Sidon to Beirut to assist their brothers, who are the target of a massacre planned by the Americans and Israelis and carried out by the Syrian president's regime through Ghazi Kan'an.

Evacuation Agreement Reached

NC0707165488 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Text] Palestinian dissident sources have declared that Burj al-Barajinah camp has fallen to the dissidents. No denial from the 'Arafat loyalists has so far been forthcoming.

A dissident source stated that the issue of the withdrawal of the pro-'Arafat gunmen from Burj al-Barajinah is over, and that the time is ripe for the implementation of this step. The source added that arrangements have been made for the transportation of the evacuees to the Sidon area.

'Asim Qansuh, regional secretary of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party Organization in Lebanon, has stated that an agreement has been concluded to evacuate the pro-'Arafat gunmen from Burj al-Barajinah camp. He noted that the 'Arafat loyalists will leave for Sidon under the agreement sponsored by the leftist parties. It is noteworthy that Mustafa Sa'd, leader of the Popular Nasirite Organization, has refused to let the 'Arafat loyalists into Sidon, and earlier reports spoke of airlifting them to Tunis.

An official in the Syrian Social Nationalist Party has stated that a delegation from the so-called national parties has left for Burj al-Barajinah camp to meet with Syrian officers, discuss the evacuation of the pro-'Arafat gunmen, and determine their destination. It has been learned that the negotiators are still in the camp. Some sources say that the 'Arafat loyalists will be evacuated today, but according to security reports the evacuation will take place at dawn.

Syrians Occupy Part of Camp

JN0707162688 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1600 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Text] A Palestinian military statement says the Syrian forces occupied some positions on the western side of the Burj al-Barajinah camp in Beirut this afternoon, having earlier shelled the area with various types of weapons.

'Asim Qansuh, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Organization in Lebanon, had asserted an agreement was reached to evacuate the last of the Fatah fighters from the Burj al-Barajinah camp with the guarantee of Lebanese leftist parties.

A meeting was held at the headquarters of the Syrian forces near the Burj al-Barajinah camp this afternoon among notables of the camp, officials of Lebanese leftist parties, and officers of the Syrian Army, which has been deployed in West Beirut since February 1987 and in Beirut's southern suburb where the camp has been located since May 1988.

Syria Criticized

JN0707180688 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Text] A PLO information spokesman has stated the following:

Impudent statements made by Ghazi Kan'an came as no surprise to the Palestinian leadership. He has sought to mislead public opinion about the crimes of the renegade Arab regime against Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah camps and threats to Sidon, thus shedding the last mask on the plot of the renegade regime and the U.S. Administration in Lebanon and against the Palestinian people and th ir valiant resistance in our land of occupation. Kan'an's declarations have clearly unveiled the measure of his regime's involvement in Lebanon. This conspiracy

against our people in Lebanon has been directed by Kan'an at the behest of his masters, exactly as has happened on more than one spot on Lebanese territory.

Let Ghazi Kan'an and his masters keep in mind that these Palestinian camps are not Israeli settlements in the Golan Heights whose guns on the front are silent. Instead they are pounding defenseless civilians in our camps.

The renegade forces have, since yesterday morning, tried to advance from several axes, concentrating their attack on the Ta'awuniyyah under the cover of intense, heavy rocket fire. Our masses in Burj al-Barajinah and its defenders managed to stand up to the renegade attack and defeat it. The sustained attacks and shelling of Burj al-Barajinah produced heavy casualties among civilian children, women, and the elderly. Bent on pursuing its wrongdoing and scheming, which have become known to all peoples around the world, the forces of the renegade Arab regime and their checkpoints deployed in the western part of Beirut, barred the Algerian medical mission from Burj al-Barajinah. The medical team has been seeking access to the camp since the day before yesterday. Despite intervention by Algerian officials in Beirut, the renegade forces continued to deny access. Likewise medicines were not allowed in and evacuation of the wounded was banned. These forces also denied entry to the camp by the Palestinian Red Crescent after destroying the Haifa Hospital there, despite the mounting number of wounded from the continuing, senseless shelling of the camp from all directions.

The Palestinian blood being let and wasted in Beirut is Muslim, Arab blood that has been prepared to liberate Palestine and fight against the Zionist enemy. These days, alas, this blood is being squandered with Arab hands as if the Burj al-Barajinah has become an Israeli settlement and its residents Zionist Jews.

The blood of our children in Shatila and Burj al- Barajinah, and previously in Sabra and Tall al-Za'tar, in Dubayyah and in Karantina, shall remain a disgrace on the conscience of the Arab and Islamic nations until it is washed away with the blood of the treacherous and the renegade, the drinker of Muslim blood, regardless of where this has happened.

Safe Passage Guaranteed

NC0707172788 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Excerpts] The battle for Burj al-Barajinah camp has been decided in favor of the dissidents. The zero hour for the evacuation of Yasir 'Arafat's loyalists from the camp has been initially set for 0500 tomorrow.

This agreement was reached at 1730 today following an expanded meeting that included representatives of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Organization, the Communist Party, the PSP, and the Syrian Social Nationalist party, which was represented by Marwan Faris.

According to information received by the Voice of Lebanon, Sultan Abu al-'Aynayn, commander of the 'Arafat loyalists in Burj al-Barajinah, insisted yesterday that the leftist parties guarantee safe passage to Sidon for 'Arafat's fighters. He also demanded an assurance that they would not be harassed, detained, or have their personal weapons taken away. The dissidents and the Syrian forces agreed to these demands today. The fighters will be evacuated in trucks belonging to the Lebanese internal security forces. The Algerian mediation delegation has guaranteed that they will not be harassed.

It is recalled that the Algerian delegation stopped its mediation 2 days ago, saying that it wanted a request in writing from Yasir 'Arafat for the evacuation of his fighters from the camp. The delegation said that it had become involved in the negotiations with the aim of ending the fighting and establishing peaceful coexistence among the Palestinian groups in the camp.

Trucks belonging to the internal security forces entered the camp this afternoon and left it at 1745. They will return at 0400 tomorrow to evacuate 'Arafat's loyalists. Reports froam the field indicate that the Palestinian fighters have assembled in the eastern sector of Burj al-Barajinah camp in preparation for their evacuation. [passage omitted]

The BAYRUT NEWS AGENCY has cited a PNSF source as saying that Syrian intelligence officials have arrested Muhammad and Mustafa Salih, who were attempting to blow up weapons and ammunition depots belonging to Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] in Hawsh Tall Safiyah. The Palestinian source said that the two were working for 'Arafat's Fatah group. The same agency also reported that at 0400 today Syrian intelligence personnel raided the house of Ahmad Tawbah, a sergeant major in the Chamber of Deputies police force, in Al-Shiyah and took Tawbah to an unknown destination. Reports on the reasons for his abduction are conflicting.

Abu Sharif Blames Syria

NC0807062088 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 8 Jul 88

[Text] Bassam Abu Sharif, political adviser to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, has stated that those who are attacking the Palestinian camps in Beirut fall in the same category reserved for the Zionist-imperialist enemy.

In an interview with the Lebanese newspaper AL-DIYAR, Abu Sharif said: We had hoped that Damascus and its regime would not treat Burj al-Barajinah camp as if it were an Israeli settlement. He added that we tell those who want to understand: You can take Shatila, Burj al-Barajinah, and all the camps in Lebanon, but you cannot strip the Palestinian people of their national identity represented by the PLO.

Abu Sharif accused Syria of directly participating in the attacks on the Burj al-Barajinah camp. He said that the pro-Syrian Palestinians did not have enough ammunition to carry out the attacks they had launched thus far and that, obviously, they had received supplies of ammunition directly from the Syrian forces.

120 Fighters Evacuated

NC0807053788 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 8 Jul 88

[Text] The 'Arafatist presence in the Beirut camps ended at 0710 today with the departure to Sidon of 120 pro-'Arafat fighters and 5 women from the Burj al-Barajinah camp. The 'Arafatist departure closes a chapter and opens another in the Syrian-Palestinian confrontation, the outcome of which will define the features of the coming stage.

How did the Palestinian convoy depart from Burj al-Barajinah camp?

At 0630 today, 120 'Arafat fighters carrying their personal belongings and 5 women boarded two buses, two Internal Security Forces trucks, three jeeps, two ambulances, and three automobiles. The convoy assembled near the southern entrance to Sabra where it was met by members of the Algerian mediation team and representatives of the leftist parties.

At 0710, the convoy left in the direction of Sidon. It arrived at Al-Rumaylah at 0800 before continuing the journey to Sidon.

Convoy Reaches 'Ayn al-Hulwah

NC0807073188 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 8 Jul 88

[Text] A Palestinian convoy of 120 pro-'Arafat fighters and 5 women, who were evacuated from the Burj al-Barajinah camp, arrived in 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp at 0845 today. The pro-'Arafat group was welcomed by a large crowd and shots were fired into the air.

The Palestinian factions in Sidon have decided to establish a security force of 150 members to maintain security and close security loopholes in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah and Al Miyah Wa Miyah camps.

Former Commander Fears Israeli Role in Sidon Area

NC0807095388 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 8 Jul 88

[Text] The former Fatah military commander in Burj al-Barajinah camp has made a statement in 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp in which he said the 'Arafat-led Fatah fighters did not fight Palestinian groups, but were pitted against brigades in the mountain area deployed as far Al-Na'imah and Al-Damur. He added that he left the camp after 'Arafat ordered him to go so that the security of the remaining civilians there would be safeguarded. He explained that only the combatants were evacuated from the camp, and totaled 175 fighters in all.

The former commander accused the Syrians of carrying out this action in Beirut in return for a cheap price. He said he expects the next role will be played by Israel in the Sidon area.

Paqraduni on Withdrawal of Forces, Election

NC0607184888 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] Karim Paqraduni, deputy commander of the Lebanese Forces, has noted that the Lebanese Forces are prepared to withdraw from East Beirut if the Syrian forces withdraw from West Beirut. In an interview with the ARABIE newspaper, Paqraduni stated that the Lebanese Forces demand a halt to foreign military and political interference in Lebanon's internal affairs. He said that the Lebanese Forces also call on the Arab League and the United Nations to supervise the presidential election in order to ensure that it is free and fair.

Paqraduni stressed that the presidential election must be held on schedule. He intimated that there are fears that the Syrians might obstruct it.

Israel Reportedly Settles Falasha Jews in Shab'a

NC0607182888 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] On the instructions of the acting prime minister and foreign minister, Ambassador Salah Sutaytiyah, director of the Foreign Ministry's Political Department, continued his work today on a file on the Shab'a farms, which will be submitted to the United Nations. There have been reports that the Israeli occupation forces are settling Falasha Jews on some of these farms.

In this connection, Ambassador Sutaytiyah met with Attorney Kamal Hadid and Kazim Sa'd, who, on behalf of the Shab'a inhabitants, emphasized that there have been two Israeli settlements in the (Mashhad al-Tayr) and Zibdin areas since 1985. The occupation authorities have built roads to these settlements and provided them with water and electricity. They are also operating buses between these settlements and the occupied Palestinian territories. Some of Shab'a's residents have visited these settlements at various times.

Al-Asad Receives Husayn Message on Shultz Plan

JN0607195588 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 5 Jul 88 p 1

[Text] Damascus, AL-ITTIHAD—Diplomatic sources in Damascus have disclosed to AL-ITTIHAD that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad received a message from Jordan's King Husayn, which was delivered by Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i during his most recent visit to Damascus. The message concerns the possibility of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz making a fifth tour to the region and the new points that may be presented by the U.S. Administration.

FRG's Spath Leaves After Making Statement

JN0707124288 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Text] Lothar Spath, prime minister of Baden Wurttemberg State in the FRG, left Damascus today with his accompanying delegation. He was seen off by Dr Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, a number of ministers, the chief of protocol in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Syrian ambassador in the FRG, the FRG ambassador in Damascus, and FRG Embassy staff.

Spath made a statement to SANA correspondant before his departure in which he praised the role and stands of President Hafiz al-Asad in the region. He said: I held beneficial discussions with the Syrian friends over a number of issues that concern both sides. My visit to Syria has achieved the required results. He added: We agreed on developing and strengthening cooperation between the two countries and we signed an agreement concerning the execution of a number of economic and agricultural projects. Work will start on them soon.

In concluding his speech, Mr Spath expressed his deep thanks to Syria—its president, people, and government—and on the good reception and hospitality he and his delegation received.

Damascus Radio on Need for 'Reforms' in Lebanon

JN0707150388 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] Lebanon is gradually approaching the constitutional date when presidential elections are due. With the approach of that date, talk about Lebanon, its situation and future increases, political activity intensifies, and external interest in Lebanon heightens. Perhaps the heightened interest is due to the fact that the presidency in Lebanon is—as the leader Al-Asad has said—a symbol of Lebanon's unity. Hence Syria's concern for the Lebanese presidency as it symbolizes the unity of the land, the people, and their institutions in the fraternal country.

It appears from statements made regarding the approaching constitutional date for the Lebanese presidential elections that all the parties in Lebanon want the presidential elections to be held in a normal atmosphere. It also appears that in addition to such interest in the elections, there is greater interest in turning the occasion into a profound discussion of the Lebanese internal crisis and in finding a solution that restores Lebanon's health and role and establishes a president. There is also an interest in having a president who positively and effectively contributes toward ending the aberrant situation and bringing about a normal situation on the basis of a clear reconciliation program. This program should adopt the common factors among all national forces and safeguard Lebanon's unity, Arab affiliation, and right to liberate the territory occupied by the Israeli enemy.

Among the positive signs is that the approaching date for the presidential elections should be an incentive for all the Lebanese forces to work seriously for moving to the path of national reconciliation. Reconciliation is the key to any national solution to Lebanon. National reconciliation cannot exist on the basis of one group dominating the other, or one side enjoying more privileges than the other. National reconciliation is achieved when the interests of all the sides are taken into consideration on the basis of ensuring justice and equality for all.

When the Lebanese brothers proceed from the premise of national interest and the recognition of justice and equality for all, the road will be paved toward national reconciliation. As long as all the Lebanese sides recognize that it is the Lebanese system with its many loopholes which in the past led to the internal crisis and enabled the enemies to kindle the fire of sedition, then logic and national interest require that such loopholes are removed by introducing the necessary reforms into the system so as to establish justice and equality, ensure equilibrium, and provide guarantees for all at present and in the future.

We do not believe the achievement of such an objective is impossible. Indeed, we believe the road is open to all the Lebanese forces to seriously discuss reforms and agree on the bases of such reforms. Moreover, the national interest badly and decisively requires that. Once the brothers in Lebanon embark on the road to reconciliation, all those who are loyal to Lebanon and all those who have good intentions to save Lebanon from its bitter conditions will support such a step. Syria will also support such a step—Syria which is anxious to preserve the unity of Lebanon and its territorial integrity and which announced its decision a long time ago through its struggler leader Hafiz al-Asad: The decision to stand by Lebanon and to help and support it at all times.

We in Syria will spare no effort to help the Lebanese brothers when they proceed along the path of national reconciliation and face the constitutional dues with the interest and positive stands they deserve. Syria was never an internal party to the Lebanese crisis. It never

supported one side against another. It supports the Lebanese as much as the Lebanese are concerned for their homeland. It is close to them as long as they are close to the Lebanese interests which does not conflict at all with Syria's national and pan-Arab interests.

The experience of the past painful years has confirmed that Syria was always concerned for Lebanon and very anxious to safeguard its unity, survival, and the continued survival of its institutions of unity. Syria's anxiousness stems from its profound belief in its fraternal and pan-Arab duty and in the need to safeguard the security and safety of Lebanese citizens and warding off all the factors and pressure that kindle the fire, create sedition, and divide the ranks. Syria's stands are principled and its decision to help the brothers is firm. All the Lebanese can rely on Syria's unshakeable national stands in their endeavors to resolve their crisis and to release the sincere efforts to bring about a solid national reconciliation for which the Lebanese masses yearn in the hope of a rebirth of the homeland and the system.

'Facts' Belie 'Positive' U.S. Policy Trend

PM0607104388 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 22 Jun 88 p 8

[Dr 'Abd al-Karim 'Abd al-Samad article: "Facts Behind U.S. Position"]

[Text] Recently there has been much talk about "a positive development in the U.S. position" toward the Palestinian uprising and the Palestinian problem in general. So, how real is this? Does such a development exist? And if so, what are the reasons for it? These are legitimate questions requiring convincing answers. Views may differ over them in one way or another, but indeed they all revolve around facts that cannot be ignored—facts based on U.S. foreign policy and the strategic relationship between Washington and Tel Aviv. Foremost among these facts are:

Washington has always been and still is the strategic ally of the Zionist entity and its main source of military power and economic aid;

Washington has not announced any constructive measures to prove its good intention as a mediator working for a solution to the region's crisis and central problem, the Palestinian problem, within the framework of an international conference;

Washington has not announced any sanctions against the Zionist terrorists, even as a means of propaganda for its favorite issue, human rights;

Via its senior officials Washington has repeatedly declared its concern for Israeli security as well as its desire for Israel to be powerful and superior;

Washington has declared plainly that it will not exert any pressure on Israel to change its position on ideas proposed at the international level for a solution to the crisis in the region;

Its diplomatic moves via U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and his team have not been maintained within the framework of continuing efforts to find a just and permanent solution to the region's crisis. In fact they have been aimed at ridding Israel of its continuing crisis and containing the Palestinian uprising. These are some of the facts behind the official U.S. position. These facts are too convincing to be erased or changed by statements or claims made by some U.S. officials, including Shultz and his assistant, Murphy. In addition, the U.S. officials' statements, described as positive, must not be separated from their general context and objective or from the fixed principle of U.S. policy toward the Arab-israeli conflict, namely maintaining a total bias toward Israel and relations of strategic alliance between Washington and Tel Aviv.

Even if it is accepted that such "positive" statements are impartial and sincere, with a view to prompting the U.S. Administration to adopt a genuine constructive stand, they must not be isolated from new developments in the Arab and Palestinian arenas and their role in prompting something new in a traditional U.S. position. The Algiers summit, thanks to efforts made by Arab Syria and its leader Al-Asad, succeeded in becoming a summit for the uprising, securing support for the frontline states.

The uprising has continued and escalated. Syria's position has been enhanced by an Arab unanimity that has worried both Tel Aviv and Washington. So, the U.S. Administration had no option but to dispatch its envoys once again. It inspired them with statements which may sound positive but which are not reflected in the official U.S. stand on the Arab-Israeli conflict and do not weaken the alliance between Washington and Tel Aviv. However, it was useful for Shultz to admit that "the occupation road is closed." His assistant, Murphy, commented: "The uprising has created a new qualitative awareness toward it in the world." But what would be more useful is for Washington to exert genuine pressure on Tel Aviv's rulers and demonstrate new facts in the essence of its policy in the Middle East. But will it do that? And when?!

Afghanistan

Najibullah Speaks at Milli Shura Closing Session

LD0707230488 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1636 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Speech by President Najibullah at the concluding session of the Milli Shura in Kabul on 7 July—recorded]

[Excerpts] Esteemed representatives of the Milli Shura, worthy representatives of Afghanistan's people:

Today the first session of the Milli Shura ended its work. [passage indistinct]

The return of the Soviet forces has left a series of new and difficult tasks before the Armed Forces of Afghanistan in its defense of the residential areas, transportation routes, and strategic areas. The Armed Forces of Afghanistan are capable of fulfilling these duties. All the centers of the provinces and most of the centers of the districts are under the control of the people's power. [words indistinct] Endless efforts by the armed extremists have been foiled. By this of course I mean the efforts aimed at taking over Vardak Province and Qalat. We have full control of Jalalabad and Qandahar. The leaders of the alliance of seven from outside the country had attached their plans in forming a so-called transitional government to this area.

We have been asked: What is the position of the alliance of seven leaders? I say with great regret that the stance of a number of them toward our proposals and countless compromises is still uncompromising. [passage indistinct]

As a result of their separation from Afghanistan's people and their political adventurism the idea of solving the [word indistinct] contradiction of the alliance of seven leaders through peaceful means and in a mutually beneficial way was not and is not acceptable. Their existence in war is (?connected) with the use of weapons, with terror and destruction and provocative propaganda. The end of this will be final separation and political death.

The purposeful and further measures by the people's power have eliminated all the pretexts used by the alliance of seven leaders, such as: Islam is in danger in Afghanistan; or, the existence of the Soviet forces, and other pretexts like these. The counterrevolutionary forces have made themselves [word indistinct] with new crimes against the people, faith, and national unity. All those who want to joint Afghanistan with Pakistan and sell this land—the inheritance of our fathers and forefathers—will not be allowed to do so by any Afghan and peace-loving people. [applause] [passage omitted] [passage indistinct]

We have been asked: What the outcome of the Geneva accords will be? The Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union fulfill their commitments. The return of the limited Soviet military forces will continue. Afghanistan will create demilitarized zones along the border with Pakistan. It will ensure the [word indistinct] of the refugees and observe noninterference principles honestly.

The assessment of Afghan Foreign Minister Esteemed 'Abdul Wakil's report on ways to implement the Geneva accords and on Pakistan's repeated violations of these accords was delivered to the joint session of Milli Shura. It shows that the people's representatives follow the Geneva accords and their implementation because they are tied inseparably to ensuring peace in our country and in this corner of the world in a timely manner.

The Republic of Afghanistan's 6 years of efforts at the Geneva negotiations and the signing of the Geneva accords are a bright picture of the peaceful policy of Afghanistan as a nonaligned and neutral country in the world. The Geneva accords are seen as a great and peaceful step in ensuring peace in the region by various countries in the world, as well as by the Islamic countries, and as a [word indistinct] for resolving other regional conflicts.

However, unfortunately, since the Geneva accords were signed, there have not been notable signs and signals from Pakistan showinf its willingness to fully implement the Geneva accords. [sentence indistinct] The Republic of Afghanistan has not committed even a minor violation of the Genava accords since they were signed. On the contrary, the Republic of Afghanistan's 40th memorandum manifesting Pakistan's violations of the Geneva accords has been handed over to the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan. [passage omitted]

Today I will meet with Cordovez and we will discuss all these issues. I think it is clearer now than at any other time to the President of the United States that the increase of tension in various regions of the world brings danger and human casualties. I consider it my duty on behalf of the Milli Shura, Government, and people of Afghanistan to express my condolences to the families and relatives of the martyred passengers of the Iranian airplane.

We have been asked how the formation of a new politial system will [word indistinct]. Each of you is a witness to the important stages of this process. You can reply to these questions. Multiparty and coalition systems are operating, fully based on the principles of democracy and reconciliation. [words indistinct]

We should speak to the people with honesty. We should always remember that the truth will help us. [applause] The more truth there is, the more the trust will increase. The more the reality, the more there will be firm belief. [appluase] [sentence indistinct] The more united the ranks of the patriotic strugglers, the sooner the struggle for national peace will reach victory.

The freedom-loving elected representatives of Afghanistan's people, you who reflect the will of the people, should [word indistinct] hand in hand for the sake of peace, tranquility, and fraternity. We should exert all our efforts, knowledge, and energy for the great cause of national peace. Long live our dear and independent country, Afghanistan! [appluase]

Najibullah, Cordovez Assess Progress in Region

LD0707171188 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Text] At the presidential palace this morning, Esteemed President Najibullah met with D. Cordovez, the UN secretary general's special envoy.

The Afghan president comprehensively assessed the current situation in the country and efforts to implement the Geneva accords and emphasized that Pakistan's attention should be drawn to the need to completly observe these accords.

Esteemed Najibullah said that the only way to achieve peace and stability in the region is to completely and unconditionally implement the Geneva accords.

He added that the Republic of Afghanistan has always expressed its complete willingness to engage in a constructive dialogue with all opposition forces—both inside and outside the country—and believes that achieving nationwide peace by military means is not feasible. Peace can only be restored through constructive talks and dialogue. Unfortunately, the opposition has intensified its destructive activities, which concern the Republic of Afghanistan.

Cordovez praised the earnest will and practical steps the Republic of Afghanistan has taken in observing and implementing the Geneva accords and in cooperating with UNGOMAP [UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan]. He then promised Esteemed Najibullah that he will continue his efforts to provide feasible grounds to completely implement the Geneva accords.

According to another report, D. Cordovez and Esteemed President Najibullah had breakfast together today.

Sharq Talks With Cordovez

LD0707175488 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 7 Jul

[Text] In his office this afternoon Dr Muhammad Hasan Sharq, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, in the presence of Esteemed 'Abdul Wakil, minister of foreign affairs, received D. Cordovez, special envoy of the UN secretary general.

At this meeting the prime minister emphasized the need for the practical and comprehensive implementation of the Geneva accords in order to restore peace, cease the war and bloodshed in the country, and provide stability in the region. He added that the Republic of Afghanistan is carrying out its obligations in implementing the Geneva accords and will make relentless efforts to carry them out.

D. Cordovez then congratulated Dr Muhammad Hasan Sharq on his election as prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan and expressed satisfaction at its sincere willingness to restore nationwide peace in the Republic of Afghanistan.

Armed Forces, Rebel Operations, Clashes Continue

Kabul Car Explosion Kills 1

LD0707160888 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Text] This afternoon at around 1300 elements connected to extremist groups martyred one of our compatriots and wounded two others as a result of placing explosives in a Toyota sedan. According to a report from the BIA military section, the car carrying the explosives exploded near the (Quwa-e Markaz) hospital [in Kabul]. As a result, a great deal of damage was also inflicted on our compatriots.

2 Fighter Planes Downed

BK0807081988 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 8 Jul 88

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin are reported to have shot down two fighter aircraft in Qandahar and Ghazni Provinces. In the operation more than 150 Kabul troops were killed or injured and a large number of arms and ammunition was captured.

In their attacks on Kabul-Jalalabad highway the mujahidin also demolished three military bases of the Kabul troops and occupied another two military posts. A military supply convoy of Kabul troops was attacked by the mujahidin in Spin Buldak area of Qandahar Province in which 40 Kabul troops were reported killed.

Rebels 'Crushed' in Vardak

LD0807031388 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Text] Yesterday, in order to maintain peace and stability in the country, the units and companies of the armed forces, in cooperation with the local people, crushed another war-mongering extremist group in Vardak Province. As a result of the combat operations, 18 enemies of peace were crushed. (?Two) reactive [as heard] units, three mortars, one DsHK, and one weapons and ammunition cache belonging to the extremists were destroyed and seven of their hide-outs were completely eliminated.

In the course of the mopping-up operation in Vardak Province during the week, 11 reactive [as heard] units, 14 mortars, 3 recoilless guns, 1 DsHK, and scores of light weapons were destroyed and several hide-outs were completely eliminated.

Concerning the crushing of those extremist elements in Vardak Province and other parts of the country who, as a result of their criminal actions, were disrupting the peaceful and tranquil lives of our people, a BAKHTAR military correspondent reports that: possessing combat readiness, the units and companies of the Armed Forces, who enjoy the all-round support of our compatriots, in the course of this week eliminated 18 extremist groups who were disrupting peace and stability in Gowshtah and Batsawul Districts, Nangarhar Province, and in La'lpur and Chaprahar subdistricts as well as in Takhar, Badghis, Lowgar, Zabol, Qandahar, Konarha, and Paktia Provinces. A large quantity of light and heavy weapons of the enemy including tens of reactive units [as heard], mortars, ZK-1 recoilless guns, and dozens of light weapons, were destroyed.

These activities openly show that those armed groups who (?act) contrary to the will of our compatriots, have been faced with the blows of the armed forces and their treacherous designs have been foiled. However, there are such armed groups too, who, ceasing their armed activities, have come to the ranks of those defending peace and tranquility in the country. As an example, a 248-strong group, headed by (Ghulam Nabi) and (Sher Agha), in Faryab Province; a 200-strong group, headed by ('Abdul Qudus), in Jorm district, Badakhshan Province; an 11-strong group, headed by (Mullah 'Abdul Ahad) and (Mullah Mahmuddin) in Helmand Province have ceased war and bloodshed and have announced their intention to join the policy of national reconciliation. This process is continuing.

The extremist groups, however, are afraid more than ever before of these successes by the peace-loving people of the country and thus vainly engage in lunatic inhuman and anti-Islamic actions. The launching of 12 missiles at the residential areas of Kabul city; the explosion at the Morad Khani market; heavy weapons and missile attack on villages in the Nur Gol and Narang subdistricts and also missile attacks at Gardeyz city, Paktia Province, and Khas Konar district, Nangarhar Province, which killed 23 people including old men, women, and children, and wounded 39 people. Also as a result of these attacks 12 mosques and dozens of our compatriots' homes have been destroyed. These actions do not bring the extremist groups respect, but reveal their inhuman and anti-Islamic essence.

Ministry of Information and Culture Formed

LD0607164488 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0427 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] Kabul, July 5, BAKHTAR—The Senate and the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of Afghanistan continued their separate sessions for the past two days.

Both chambers of the parliament after long discussion on the proposal of the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan dated June 30, 1988, approved the formation of the Ministry of Information and Culture.

The ministry consists of the state committees, for radio, television and cinematography, BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY, culture, print and publication and department of the cooperation with the local publicity.

Moreover, both chambers approved the annexation of the department for direct cooperation between the republics of the Soviet Union with the provinces of Afghanistan to the Ministry of Commerce.

Commission Approves Law on National Assembly

LD0107102788 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0450 GMT 1 Jul 88

[Text] Kabul, June 30, BAKHTAR—The Law on National Assembly was discussed and approved at today's session of the joint commission of the Senate and House of Representatives of the parliament of Afghanistan.

After inclusion of one item and removal of one chapter, the law was approved in eleven chapters and eighty two items. This law will enter into force after being signed by the president of Republic of Afghanistan.

Rabbani Discusses Mujahidin Alliance, Soviets

PM0507124988 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 Jul 88 p 4

[Interview with Prof Burhanuddin Rabbani, Jamiyat-e Eslami leader, by Jamal Khashuqji in Peshawar; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Khashuqji] Have the withdrawal of the Soviet forces and the signing of the Geneva agreements resolved the Afghan problem?

[Rabbani] The signed agreement can in no way resolve the problem. In fact, the reverse is the case. The agreement has secured no reconciliation or peace. In the agreement the Soviet Union insists on the right to send arms to the surrogate regime in Kabul. It also insists that the regime should remain in power. So we still see the party that invited the Soviets to invade Afghanistan ruling Kabul. And they will probably do it again when the regime collapses once more, as happened in 1979. [passage omitted]

[Khashuqji] What is the military situation like inside the country now?

[Rabbani] After the Soviet Army's withdrawal began, government soldiers started to evacuate their positions. A few do this voluntarily, but the majority do so under strong pressure from the mujahidin. So far 27 towns and garrisons have fallen. Large parts of some big cities like Qandahar have fallen to the mujahidin. [passage omitted]

Our current operations differ from those we launched in the past. We used to fight the enemy on hundreds of fronts, but now we focus on sensitive positions, launching an organized war aimed at liberating Afghanistan in full, God willing. But the advantage of our jihad now is that we alone decide both when and where to launch a battle; whereas in the past both we and the enemy used to do that.

[Khashuqji] Have you made any direct contacts with the Soviets?

[Rabbani] The Soviets now understand the need to secure a means of establishing contacts with the mujahidin. And indeed indirect contacts have been made—something new in the political arena.

[Khashuqji] What issues are under discussions between you and the Soviets?

[Rabbani] The Soviets are trying to find out what the future of their relations with a mujahidin government will be as well as the fate of the Afghan Communist Party. But the most important issue is endeavors to conclude agreements or reach a verbal understanding to ensure their withdrawal from some areas and determine the future of prisoners.

[Khashuqji] How many Soviet prisoners do you have?

[Rabbani] We consider this matter a military secret. However, the number of killed and wounded admitted by the Soviets is smaller than the number available to us, namely more than 70,000 killed and wounded. [passage omitted]

[Khasuqji] On what points do the parties in the arena agree, and where do they differ?

[Rabbani] All the parties are in agreement over the principle of an Islamic state. But they differ over some details—a natural thing that can be remedied. And we hope that no one will depart from the jihad's principal objectives.

[Khashuqji] Is there any rapprochement among the parties within the alliance?

[Rabbani] There is rapprochement among the four main parties, which can easily form a merger.

Actually, attempts are being made to unify the parties that are closed to each other in terms of faith and ideology. Consultations are being conducted between us and Shaykh 'Abdul Rasul Sayyaf [Islamic Unity Movement of Afghan Mujahidin leader] and Mawlawi Yunis Khalis [Hezb-e Eslami faction leader] and we hope others will join in, especially Brother Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, Islamic Party leader.

[Khashuqji] What will the future of these parties be after a state is established?

[Rabbani] It is the permanent constitution which will determine whether there will be one party or party plurality in Afghanistan. As for my personal opinion, the parties must continue. Nonruling parties can then embark on the task of questioning, control, and guidance, not as an opposition for the sake of opposing, as in Western systems and those copying them.

[Khashuqji] Sebghatullah Mujadeddi [National Liberation Front leader] says that the four parties are maintaining a hard-line political approach in Afghanistan and imposing their view, namely establishing a fundamentalist state by the force of arms. What is your comment?

[Rabbani] No one can have any other option but an Islamic state. And no one can offer anything other than Islam as the foundation for a state. Islamic principles are clear and shari'a rules and laws must be implemented. We cannot be like those who believe in some parts of the book [Koran] and not in other parts of it. Even if some refused to do so, God's word will be implemented, even by force. We believe in Islam as a religion and a law, applying it to all aspects of life: politics, economics, education, social affairs, and information. The Muslim Afghan people will not allow anyone to choose Western or non-Western systems and curricula as an alternative to Islam. [passage omitted]

[Khashuqji] The Americans said that they will continue to support the mujahidin if the Soviets continue to support the Kabul regime. Have you sensed any results from such a pledge?

[Rabbani] These are just tranquilizers and idle talk which the United States is using to silence those advocating support for the mujahidin in the United States. The U.S. State Department has arranged something with the Soviets and agreed with them on liquidating the jihad. And now there is nothing left for them but these promises.

The [Geneva] agreements were concluded to deny the mujahidin support and place them under a political, military, and information siege. We are no longer sure about the U.S. Government's intentions. [passage omitted]

[Khashuqji] Some of the elements claiming a link with the mujahidin have released news that the mujahidin have sold arms to Iran, most recently Stinger missiles. How true is this?

[Rabbani] Anyone claiming that the mujahidin have sold arms to Iran or others is nothing but a Soviet intelligence agent. These lies are being spread by the Kabul and Soviet radios. If a mujahid sold a Kalashnikov, he would be exposing everyone. So what question can there be of selling a Stinger missile?

India

Kanwar Natwar Singh on Israeli, Pakistani Ties

PM0307111788 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 1 Jul 88 p 39

[Interview with Kanwar Natwar Singh, minister of state for external affairs, by Zaki Shihab in London; date not specified]

[Excerpts] AL-HAWADITH: The reports released in Washington on India's intention to establish diplomatic relations with Israel have caught the attention of observers. What truth is there in these reports? And are contacts actually being made in this regard?

Singh: In 1949 we voted against the UN resolution recognizing Israel as a state. We have always maintained and still maintain this stand. Proof of this is that there are no diplomatic relations between India and Israel. We in India strongly support the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and to establish their own state. We explained this clearly at the United Nations and at the international level. We have always said that our stand in this regard is not far from that of our Arab brothers.

There was an Israeli consul in Bombay; his powers were confined to one state, namely, Maharash. A few years ago we informed him that his activities in our country were no longer desirable. The Israeli authorities have asked to appoint another person. But this will not affect our stand on the Palestinian question and Israel's existence.

AL-HAWADITH: In light of your comments, what solution to the Palestinian problem do you visualize?

Singh: Resolutions adopted by both the UN and the nonaligned states emphasized the Palestinian people's right to have their own homeland. The PLO was given the right to represent the Palestinian people, as the sole legitimate representative. Thus, we believe that a solution can only be achieved by implementing these resolutions. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: During your stay at the UN, did you sense any new efforts being exerted to end the Gulf war?

Singh: This war is a tragedy inflicted on two Muslim, Asian countries. In my opinion, it should never have taken place. We feel very sad about its continuation because we long have been linked with good ties to both countries. We hope and pray that this war will be brought to an end in the near future via UN resolutions and the will of the international community.

AL-HAWADITH: Despite Iran's refusal to accept UN Security Council Resolution 598?

Singh: We support the efforts made by the UN secretary general in this regard. These efforts must continue until they achieve their objective. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: The process of normalizing relations between India and Pakistan is slow. Why?

Singh: True. It is proceeding slowly. We seek good relationships with our neighbors. We want Pakistan to be a strong, united state because its weakness is not in our interest. What has affected the process of normalizing relations between our two countries is Pakistan's support for terrorists in the Punjab. We furnished the Pakistani Government with documents proving that terrorists receive both support and encouragement from it. And so long as these things are continuing the normalization process will, against our wish, develop slowly. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: How long will the Indian forces remain in Sri Lanka?

Singh: We have recently withdrawn a total of 3,000 soldiers. When the political situation is completely stable in Sri Lanka's northern and southern areas and when a new government is elected, we will withdraw our forces gradually. We went to Sri Lanka in response to a request from its central government, after we signed an Indian-Sri Lankan agreement under which we provided the Sri Lankan Government with military aid. We will withdraw our forces once the agreement is implemented. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: In your opinion, how can the Punjab problem be solved?

Singh: We hope that the political process will resume. At the same time, we are determined to destroy terrorism. Attempts to separate any part of India are unacceptable. The great majority of Indian inhabitants and Sikhs are certainly against terrorism. [passage omitted]

Editorial Analyzes Gandhi Cabinet Reshuffle

BK0707100788 Delhi PATRIOT in English 27 Jun 88 p 8

[Editorial: "The Reshuffled Pack"]

[Text] In his three and a half years as prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi has effected as many as 14 changes in his cabinet. The last, announced on Saturday, 25 June, was, unlike some of the previous ones, a major shake up—at least in terms of the numbers of ministers who have been moved around, though may be not in terms of the significance of these movements. The faces remain more or less the same and there is little to convince that the new portfolios are more suited to the abilities of the newly appointed members. They should not, therefore, be expected to bring about any fundamental changes either in approach or in the effectiveness with which the ministries are run.

The more important of these changes have been with respect to the economic ministries. Although political changes get translated with amazing alacrity into market

sentiment, as the downward slide in the capital market on the imminent exit of Mr N.D. Tiwari from the finance ministry clearly showed, the appointment of Mr S.B. Chavan as finance minister is unlikely to evoke a strong market reaction. Mr Chavan is reputed to be a competent administrator and capable of taking a firm stand, as his position on Centre-State relations as the chief minister of Maharashtra clearly showed.

Industry, in all probability, will not have reason to be unhappy over this change, a consideration that may have weighed in his favour with the prime minister. At the same time, giving the planning portfolio to Mr Madhav Singh Solanki would help to reverse the tilt of present economic policy toward growth alone. His commitment to anti-poverty prograammes is well known and his appointment would help to give a pro-people stance to the government's policies at least in appearance and till the next elections. While commerce with Mr Dinesh Singh is in fairly competent hands, the handing of power to Mr Kalpanath Rai seems to contradict the commitment to focus on the power sector in the eighth plan.

For all the significance of these changes it is, however, unlikely that the newly appointed ministers will have any leading role to play in the formulation of new policy initiatives. This is not the way this government runs. At the same time, the most glaring anomaly that persists, is the appointment of those who have clearly demonstrated their lack of ability in the states to important ministerial positions at the centre. In earlier days it was only after they have proved their worth at the state level that even stalwarts like G.B. Pant, Y.B. Chavan, C. Subramaniam and others were inducted into the centre. While it is true that central and state positions make different kinds of demands, some indication of merit should be the minimum qualification for such progress to the centre. This has unfortunately been brushed aside in recent cabinet appointments.

Security Forces Kill 2 'Terrorists' in Punjab

BK0307092188 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Text] In Punjab, two farmers and two terrorists have been killed in separate incidents since last night. In Amritsar District, terrorists gunned down two farmers in village Kalla near Tarn Taran early this morning. The victims were attacked when they were sleeping in their house. While escaping, the terrorists took away a gun belonging to one of the victims.

In Gurdaspur District, two terrorists were killed in separate encounters with security forces in Batala and Fatehgarh Churian areas last night. Encounters followed raids by security forces on terrorist hideouts on definite information. Some arms and ammunition were recovered from the killed terrorists.

'Terrorists' Kill 4 in Punjab's Amristar District

BK0507075488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] In Punjab, terrorists shot dead four persons, including three members of a family, last night. According to an official spokesman, terrorists forced their entry into a house in Village Shahpur in Amritsar District and killed three members of a family. Terrorists gunned down one person and injured another at Kishanpura village in Patiala District. The victims were shopping, when the assailants started firing on them.

Police Head Constable Killed in Punjab Violence

BK0807040688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 8 Jul 88

[Text] The former Punjab chief minister and the president of the Akali Dal-Longowal, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, presented himself before the five high priests at the Akal Takht [highest seat of Sikh religion] in Amritsar yesterday. He requested the revocation of his excommunication from the Sikh panth [religion]. The high priests have deferred their decision to a later date.

In Punjab, three [as heard] persons, including a police head constable and three terrorists, have been killed in separate incidents since last evening. In Gurdaspur District, one head constable and a terrorist were killed and one terrorist injured in an encounter in village Ghabri early this morning. Another terrorist was killed in an encounter in village Kotsukia in Faridkot District last night. A Chinese assault rifle and some ammunition were recovered from the dead terrorist. The Faridkot police also recovered a bullet-ridden body of a terrorist from outside a village near Moga last night. The police suspect that the terrorist was killed in intergang rivalry.

In Jullundur District, terrorists gunned down two persons in Nawashahr last evening. The victims were returning from a village when they were attacked.

Nagas' Ambush Kills 3 Soldiers in Manpur 7 Jul

BK0707160888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Text] Agency reports from Imphal say that three armymen, including two majors and a jawan [soldier], were killed when underground nagas ambushed a security force vehicle in Ukhrul District of Manipur today. The hostiles belonging to the National Socialist Council of Nagaland ambushed the vehicle and disappeared into the jungle. Reports say a woman and a girl were injured in the attack.

Indefinite Curfew Imposed in Allahabad

BK0407075288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] In Allahabad, indefinite curfew was imposed in four police station areas in the city this morning following incidents of violence. According to a police spokesman, the trouble started, when some people tried to build unauthorized constructions inside a cemetery.

Iran

Majlis Speaker Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons

LD0807123788 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Jul 88

[Text] We start the news reports with the issues discussed in today's Friday prayers sermons in Tehran. Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, acting commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces, in his prayer sermons referred to the enormous crime which was perpetrated by the United States in the Persian Gulf.

He stressed that this is one of the strangest incidents in the world. There have been many plane crashes in the world but this disaster has some special features which should be scrutinized, because the other side, namely the United States, has a military presence in the Persian Gulf in the name of safeguarding security and fighting terrorism. It is a superpower which is dominant in many international organizations which are responsible for investigating such incidents. Despite this claim, how can the United States hold its head up and give an answer to the nations of the world regarding this crime which it has committed.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: World reaction to this incident is worthy of attention because there are still many attentive individuals in the world. The United States did not want to see a wave of protests against them throughout the world, and they thought that the Islamic Republic would carry out a retaliatory action in kind. In that case, the United States would have achieved its aim and would have been able to organize an extensive propaganda wave against us.

However, the issue turned out differently and proceeded contrary to U.S. plans. Today all the world's newspapers and radios describe this crime as something ugly overall. Public conscience and the Western media have raised the issue in a proper way and have subjected the United States to their anger and criticism.

Referring to U.S. lies and contradictions after the incident—for instance, the shooting down of an F-14, or that the aircraft was outside the air corridor—the Majlis speaker added: Why do you tell so many lies? Is it not the case that your actions were preplanned? I would say that the title great Satan is the most respectful title which one can bestow upon you.

Hashemi Rafsanjani referred to the the deputy leader's message and the reply of his holiness the imam, and the rumors which are being spread by world arrogance about the existence of disunity in Iran. The acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces stressed that all Iranian officials are agreed that we should confront the United States, and all our officials and people believe that we should continue on our path until we achieve our rights.

The acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces added: Now we should see what the Security Council intends on this matter. If the Security Council decides to adopt a weak position today, like the United States has, the Security Council will also be disgraced.

Addressing the Security Council, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: Like all the lovers of a lasting peace in the world, we are now waiting to see what the Security Council will do, both in the issue of the airliner, and in the issue of the war. Now you are beginning to understand what a crisis you have created in the region. Let us see whether you are prepared to admit that a warmonger, which we all know, has started the war. Are you prepared to condemn the United States as a country which has an illegitimate presence in the region? Are you prepared to say that the United States should get out of the Persian Gulf so that relative security may return to the Persian Gulf? The Majlis speaker added: Today international organizations are being tested and the world should understand what their true nature is. They should either do well in the test, in which case we would thank them too; or as in the past they may act in a weak manner and under U.S. domination, in which case the people will find them out once more.

Addressing the Iranian nation, the acting C in C of the Armed Forces said: The issue of the airliner is not an incident separate from the war issue. The issue is too wide for us to be able to see all its dimensions now. An extensive program has been prepared in order to save the Ba'thist Party, in order to deprive the Islamic Republic from its rights, in order to tell the world that no revolution can achieve its rights without reliance upon the East or the West, and in order to make the nation despair of independent moves in the future. All of them are holding hands and have entered the scene, and it is possible that more incidents will take place in the future.

We see the conditions as very critical. The invitation which was issued by the Supreme War Support Council, the invitation which was made today by the General Command Headquarters of the Armed Forces, and the guidance which was issued by his holiness the imam, calls upon the people to direct their capabilities and forces toward the fronts.

This is a very serious invitation. We are at a juncture when our readiness and preparedness should be at the fronts. If today the divisions, brigades, battalions, and support forces have less than their full capacity, if the capabilities existing in the country are not servicing the war effort, then we should be anxious that the East and the West, the reactionaries, the Zionists will implement their plan to deprive us of our rights and they will be able to deliver the blow which they find necessary.

Today we should be alert and vigilant. As the person responsible for war affairs, I now say that it is incumbent upon those who have the ability to carry a gun, in particular those who have been to the fronts and are

trained, and those who have received some training, to report to the dispatch bases and training centers throughout the country. This should be done so that we have sufficient capability to confront the danger that we feel, and to confront the world conspiracy, one of whose incidents is the downing of the airliner which could result in even more bitter incidents.

Refers to 'U.S. Crime' in Gulf

LD0807112688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Jul 88

[Text] The Muslim and revolutionary Iranian people are following the savage crime by U.S. forces stationed in the Persian Gulf—their shooting down a passenger airliner of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which led to the death of 290 innocent passengers. Today, with their very extensive presence in Friday prayers, and while chanting the slogan of death to America, they expressed their revulsion of this crime by the great Satan and called for the condemnation of the United States by international organizations, in particular the UN Security Council.

The revolutionary people of Tehran, too, with their presence in the University of Tehran and surrounding streets, chanted slogans of death to America, death to Israel, and war, war, until victory, and stressed the need for resistance until victory in the imposed war. They took part in the Friday prayers led by Hojjat ol-Eslam Val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

In his prayer sermons, the acting commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces, referred to the U.S. crime in the Persian Gulf and the martyrdom of 290 passengers and crew of the Iranian passenger airliner. He said: This incident is one of the strangest incidents of the world, and it has special features which should be scrutinized. One side of the issue is the United States, which has a military presence in the Persian Gulf in the name of safeguarding security and fighting against terrorism. It is a superpower which wishes to defend human rights and is dominant in many international organizations which are responsible for investigating such incidents. Bearing this in mind, how can the United States give an answer to the nations of the world regarding this great crime?

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: World reaction to this incident is worthy of attention. Today all world newspapers and radios describe this crime as something ugly. The incident is so enormous that even Reagan expresses regret for this event, although this too is a political move in order to deceive the public.

Stressing that the United States has come to the Persian Gulf in order to create tension, the Armed Forces' acting C in C emphasized: All Iranian officials are agreed that we should confront the United States. Referring to this issue being raised in the Security Council, he added: Now we should see what the Security Council intends to do about this U.S. crime. If today it adopts a weak stance on this matter, like the United States itself, the Security Council will also be disgraced, both with regard to the U.S. crime and with regard to the war. We should see whether the Security Council is prepared to say who is the aggressor, and if it is prepared to say whether the United States should get out of the Persian Gulf or not.

Stressing the present sensitive time, the Majlis speaker referred to the invitation from the General Command Headquarters to the people to go to the battlefields and said: All those who have the ability to carry a gun, especially those who have been to the fronts and who are trained, and also those who have been trained but have not gone to the fronts, should quickly report to the dispatch bases throughout the country so that we have sufficient capability to confront the danger that we feel, and the world conspiracy against us which is taking shape.

Khamene'i Speaks at Funeral for Airbus Victims

LD0707130288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0933 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Speech by President Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyid 'Ali Khamene'i on 7 July at the Majlis building in Tehran at the funeral ceremony for victims of the Iran Air Airbus incident—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Thanks be to God and greetings to our Prophet and his scion. What is seen in this enthusiastic scene in front of the Majlis, the nation's house, is the crystallization of the boiling and angry feelings of the Iranian nation. Today in every corner of the country an assembly has been organized to commemorate these dear ones and this tragic event. In all of them the same feelings, the same anger, and the same deep motivation for revenge exist among our people.

First, I deem it necessary to offer my condolences and that of the whole Iranian nation to the families of all these dear martyrs; and I offer these condolences to our gracious imam, who is in mourning over these events and who is the father of the nation and the ummah. I also express the condolences of the heads of states and officials who have taken positions on this incident and who, through me, have offered their condolences to the mourning families and the Iranian nation.

Today a crisis stemming from anger and hatred has come about around the world because of this incident. Though the agents of global arrogance initially tried to prevent the incident, as it took place, from being seen by the world and by public opinion, the greatness of the incident revealed itself. Today all over the world—in the United States itself and in Europe—a crisis of anger and hatred over this barbaric incident has been created—an incident that is indeed very great.

The United States has been put on the defensive; they have found themselves in a reactive position. Now they are trying to resort to various pretexts to evade the waves

of anger and hatred of nations and the world's politicians. One time they claim that the incident was not intentional, another time they say they were forced to defend themselves—statements along these lines.

These statements have been rejected by the world. Experts have said these statements should be rejected. The idea that the incident was not intentional has not been accepted at all. Those who call themselves experts in these fields have now been discredited by the public and by the experts. It seems that they wanted to victimize science and scientific facts for political reasons.

This incident could not have been unintentional; the world does not accept that the passenger airliner, with such great bulk, was mistaken for a fighter plane. The experts do not accept it—it was taken to be an incorrect pretext. Therefore, the incident was definitely intentional. We declare that as the definite stand of the Iranian Government and nation.

The contention that the United States was engaged in self-defense is no less incorrect and grotesque than the first contention. A passenger airliner can be no threat to a warship, especially since it was on its own normal course, moving through the usual air corridor.

Therefore, the statements made by the United States have been rejected by the world; they are rejected by the Iranian nation. Now what remains are the incident, the criminals causing the incident, and the victims of it, that is, the Iranian nation. As for the incident itself, I must say that it is one of the biggest war crimes of our times. Make a list of all the deeds which today are described as crimes or as deeds requiring the apportioning of blame. Having listed them, then look at them. Pay attention to those elements on which world public opinion or those who claim to defend human rights or international committees following up these issues place emphasis.

As an example, I cite hostage taking. Hostage taking has been condemned by the world today. If anybody takes one or two people hostage—it does not matter whether those taken hostage are ordinary persons, politicians or even a security agent—in any corner of the world, public opinion does not like it. And yet, to take a human being hostage is not to kill that person. Hostage taking is not the same as shedding the blood of a human being. It does not make his children orphans. It deprives the hostage of his freedom for a specific period of time—a month, a year, more or less.

Murder is by far a higher crime, uglier and more condemnable than hostage taking. Hijacking is also among deeds about which world public opinion has been aroused—the agents of global arrogance propaganda and the Black House of Washington's ringleaders place emphasis on it. If several individuals—whether harboring evil intent or being self-sacrificing, militant individuals—hijack a plane, either motivated by political or nonpolitical interests, and take it from one point to another to keep its passengers 2, 3 or 5 days, only to release them, it would be condemned throughout the world as a disgraceful deed. Whenever such an incident takes place in the world, it creates a great sensation. What emphasis these self-appointed defenders of human rights place on such an act. Yet hijacking a plane is not comparable with shooting down a plane. When a plane is hijacked, there is fear and captivity; when when a plane is destroyed in mid-air it is murder, a crime; there is bloodshed and agony.

You see how the world reacts to a hijacking, and compares it with this very important incident. An airliner with almost 300 passengers, most of them children and women, are on their way. They have no enmity toward anyone, especially during their flight. Then, the arrow of a crime is fired at them. Within a moment it destroys their lives, their future, and their hopes in the eyes of humanity it is a major, important, and fully unpardonable crime. [crowd chants slogans]

Yet, this is simply the humanistic aspect of the case. It is so big a crime that no crimes prevailing in the world can be compared with it—bombings, hijackings, assassinations—none of these is really comparable with this crime the United States has committed, and I say that Reagan personally and the U.S. ruling junta are responsible for it. However, more important is the political aspect of the case; the international and humane aspects of the case. If you look at the dimensions of this case you will see that its importance is raised in a compound way. The more important dimensions of the case are that airways are made unsafe; airliner passengers have no security and feel they may not arrive safely at their destination, because a powerful government vests in itself the right to go thousands of kilometers beyond its borders and territory to establish a violent and bullying military presence to deny security to the people of that region, even when they take simple flights.

How long must humanity tolerate the bullying of a powerful state, which, relying on its power and wealth, disregards all human values? How long will nations tolerate this? Why do U.S. ringleaders lie to people? Why don't they say they want to bully the world? Why do they talk as if they respect values, as if they are defenders of human rights? What violent colonialist power, in the 19th century and in the first half of the 20th century, was more violent, more poisonous, and more harmful? The world's politicians took their pens to condemn the deeds of the colonialist governments of the past century and early this century, yet today they do not condemn the u.s. government. Why?

The world's intellectuals, politicians, those who respect human values and proclaim human rights, why do they not look at the United States in the same way as they looked at the same criminals who, in the 19th and 20th

centuries, victimized slaves, backward nations, human beings who had no refuge? The United States left a black page in history; why not look at it today with the same eye?

That a power can vest in itself the right to embark on such bullying in the free points of the world, under the pretext of defending its imaginary, presumed, or imposed interests, is the biggest tragedy of today. With such dimensions this is now an international problem; it is no longer Iran's problem.

All the countries of the world, its nations, its freedom lovers, its progressive regimes, all the regimes which respect human values even a little, must stand up against the United States over this incident. They must bring pressure on the United States. They must blame the United States.

Despite such a big issue with such vast dimensions—a tragedy for mankind, an international incident involving the murder of 300 people, including children, women, and innocents—that gentleman, the U.S. President, says: In my view, the case is closed. How amazing! You commit crimes and kill people and then say: In our opinion the case is closed. All criminals, after committing a crime, think the case is closed. But the case is not closed for those seeking retribution. The case is not closed in the powerful opinion of revenge. The case is not closed in the public's eyes, which see how humane values are rolled in the dust and blood, and are humiliated.

So is the case closed in your opinion? I declare that the person responsible in this matter is Reagan himself and the U.S. regime. [shouts of approval]

All the evidence in this incident indicates the existence of a preplanned conspiracy. With their incorrect and distorted understanding of Iran's events and problems, they intended to undertake a coordinated action with those enemies fighting us on the front at their own behest and provocation: 'Aflaqi regime of Iraq. They are coordinating in two sectors along our borders. The United states, regional reaction, and the 'Aflaqi regime are working together in this affair. They wanted to put psychological pressure on our nation to exhaust their determination to continue the resistance. They wanted to say: We will go as far as hitting your civilian plane. They wanted to frighten our people and reduce their presence at the front. Although this policy is a conspiracy and demonstrates a sinister nature, all other U.S. policies, or most U.S. policies toward Iran and the Islamic Republic, show a wrong and inept analysis. It is thus a defeated policy. This incident did not frighten our people at all. It only stirred their anger and hatred.

This incident has not forced our people to leave the arena, and they are not going to do so. On the contrary, it makes our people understand what dangerous, treacherous, and ruthless enemies we are fighting under the banner and slogan of Islam; and how right the analysis and calculations of the Islamic Republic and the Islamic revolution were in confronting and standing against them. Our people realized that their struggle against U.S. arrogance and its allies is a fight for the interest of humanity and human values.

This became quite clear, thanks to their moves. The day they were talking of human rights, some people might have thought they were really in favor of such rights and might have said: What is the meaning of our fight against them on these issues? But today our nation understands well what a lying hypocrite and treacherous and sinister murderer the enemy regime is, with its hostility to the Islamic revolution and the Islamic republic. Our people were encouraged to fight the reincarnated satan, as the imam has graciously said in his message. Our people's motive has been strengthened; this is a fact.

At the international level, what we will never under any circumtances give up—and the world nations and public should unanimously seek this, if they are truly in favor of justice—is the idea that the U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf is no longer acceptable, regardless of the logic and circumstances. [shouts of approval] If until now the U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf was the cause of tragedy; and should the U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf lead to any icident or tragedy, in whatever form, the United States will undoubtedly be responsible. Indeed, their presence is the root of all tensions. They must withdraw from the Persian Gulf. [shouts of approval] In light of the human aspect of the incident, and in light of the murder and crime committed by the United States in this region, the Iranian nation and, in their capacity as representatives of the Iranian nation, the countries' officials consider themselves authorized to avenge this bloodshed. They reserve to themselves the right to take revenge for this bloodshed in whatever form they consider appropriate, in any place they consider suitable. God willing, they will carry out their vengeance with strength. [shouts of approval] As regards the general, international, and humanitarian aspects of this incident, the political aspect of it—that is, the fact that a power dependent on force and wealth should maintain a bellicose presence in the areas of other nations and that it should exercise force—we declare that the Iranian nation will never accept any show of force or bullying by the United States—not today and not ever. [shouts of approval]

God willing, with the perseverance and fortitude of our revolutionary nation, we shall shatter this idol of belligerence and force. The Iranian nation, Islam, and the Islamic revolution will never permit this unjust distribution of strength to continue to hold sway over the world. This is the basis of our revolution's policy, the basis of our strategy. Is it possible that the Islamic revolution, the Islamic system, a Muslim revolutionary nation which has risen up, will accept the emperors of force and wealth and tolerate their making such illogical demands as in the past? We do not accept this for ourselves, much less for other nations!

God willing, this wave will engulf the world and drag down these emperors from their mighty thrones. We will see such a day, God willing.

But, you dear people, this is the enemy. The enemy who has confronted our revolution from the first day until the revolution's victory, and from the revolution's victory until today, is a ruthless enemy with no conscience, a merciless enemy with no respect for any principle or value. You should know that in these 10 years since the revolution victory and during the struggle that led to victory, we have always forced this enemy to retreat. So far, the United States has not managed to bully our revolution. Of course, there have been sanctions, economic presure, freezes of our assets, boycotts of our tools and equipment, conspiracies, and collusions with others. Nevertheless, in politics and in the confrontation between the revolution and the United States, the United States has failed to force the Islamic Republic to retreat even one step; and this struggle continues to this day.

I must tell you, dear risen, committed, loyal, and revolutionary nation, what gives hope to global arrogance to continue its unfair confrontation against our nation and our revolution is the hope of our nation tiring. It hopes to exhaust our people. They strengthen the Iraqi regime in this hope. It is in this hope that they resort to such crimes, and we see the victims of this crime here. It is in this hope that they arm the reactionry of European allies to stand against us. It is all because they hope to exhaust you, the nation.

Their only hope is to exhaust our nation; and the only reply to them, which will be like a slap in their mouth, is our nation's determination to show them that we will never tire of resistance and defending Islam and the rights of the Iranian nation. [shouts of approval] Your presence here, your presence on the front, your determination to take the issue of the imposed war seriously, and your decision to give top priority to this holy defense are the only factors that can bring despondency to the enemy.

The day they give up hope of tiring you out will be the day the Iranian nation rests. Strive to preserve this concentration, this hard work, and this deployment of all forces to slap the enemy in the mouth, both on the military and political front, as well as on all fronts. Always bear this in mind as a principle. We are determined, with almighty succor and thanks to your—the nation's—resolve and determination and your unity and solidarity, to employ all our forces powerfully in backing our dear and great imam. We are determined to put pressure, through our repeated and relentless attacks, on U.S. agents, starting with the aggressive 'Aflaqi Ba'th party, other agents, and arrogant policies. God willing, the final victory belongs to this justice-seeking, militant, and selfless nation.

Once again, I offer condolences to our dear imam, to the entire nation of Iran, and particularly to the bereaved families over this tragic incident. Since such incidents strengthen the Iranian nation's resistance, I also offer congratulations for this tragic victory. I hope that through persistence and continuation of the task and the cause, we will avenge the blood of these innocent dear ones. May God's peace and mercy and blessings be upon you all.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Attends

LD0707130088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 jul 77

[Text] At this morning's Majlis session, a proposal for merging the Commission of the Islamic Foundations as part of the commission of the Prime Ministry's Affiliated Organizations was discussed with top priority. Its top priority status was approved.

According to a Central News Unit report, the credentials of the Majlis deputies for (Eslamabad-e Gharb), Dashti, and (Tagestan), and the Jewish minority deputy were also approved at the session.

According to the same report, during a recess the Majlis speaker and deputies participated in the funeral for the pure souls martyred by the U.S. Navy attack on the Iranian airliner. They added their voices to the Iranian nation's cries condemning the U.S. crime by shouting: Death to America.

Activities at Funeral

LD0707101488 Tehran IRNA in English 1006 GMT 7 Jul 88

[7text] Tehran, July 7, IRNA—With loud shouts of "Death to America" and "revenge, revenge" the Muslim and revolutionary people of Tehran today urged the Islamic Republic officials to take due action against the U.S. in retaliation for its Sunday's downing of an Iranian passenger plane with 290 people aboard.

President 'Ali Khamene'i who addressed the huge crowd of the people vowed that Iran will avenge the blood of the victims "with all our might." He said "we keep the right of revenge in whatever form and wherever we deem it."

The plane was missiled down by the sophisticated U.S. warship USS Vincennes stationed in the Persian Gulf, while it was on a routine flight from Iran's Bandar-e 'Abbas to Dubayy in the United Arab Emirates. The plane was hit by two American missiles despite its flying through international traffic corridor.

There were 38 foreigners among the passengers of the ill-fated plane which was shot and disintegrated in mid-air by the U.S. fleet minutes after an unprovoked naval battle with Iranian gunboats in the Persian Gulf waters.

In Tehran a magnificent funeral procession was held for 76 people in downtown city starting from the parliament and continuing through Tehran streets. Another 14 were buried in Lar, Fars Prov., 10 in Zahedan, Sistan-Baluchestan Prov., and 24 in Bandar-e 'Abbas Wednesday. They were among the 200 bodies so far recovered from the Persian Gulf waters.

The pure bodies of the martyrs who were buried in Tehran today arrived here on a military plane Wednesday night. Minister of Roads Mohammad Seyyed Kya and Iran Air Chief Mohammad Reza Majidi received the coffins all draped with tri-color flag of the Islamic Republic (green, white, red), at the airport.

During the Tehran ceremony, highlights of Imam Khomeyni's recent message issued on the occasion were read as loudspeakers broadcast mourning songs. "Our war is not a war with the West and East superpowers...it is a war of our ideology against the entirety of tyranny. Our war is the war of Islam against all the inequalities of the arrogant world," the broadcast quoted the imam as saying.

In addition to President Khamene'i, the Majlis speaker, Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, members of the Council of Guardians and the Supreme Judicial Council, Majlis deputies, cabinet ministers and military commanders as well as over 100 foreign and domestic reporters attended today's funeral ceremony in the capital.

President Khamene'i, describing the incident as a preplanned conspiracy, reiterated that Mr. Reagan and his administration were responsible for the tragedy.

The president who also chairs the Supreme Defense Council [SDC] which decides the country's war strategy, further told the mourning crowd that Washington has been put in a defensive position and is therefore trying to escape the wave of worldwide hatred and abhorrence by raising various pretexts.

The SDC chief said the official stance of the Iranian Government and people was that the U.S. attack on the Iran Air passenger plane was a calculated and intentional scheme. He described the event as the "greatest war crime in the contemporary era."

"How long should humanity tolerate the bullying of a power (U.S.) which ignores human values? Why the U.S. leaders are lying and wrongly pretend to be advocates of human rights and values?" asked the president.

He said all the freedom-loving countries and people who respect human principles must stand condemn [words indistinct] for its gruesome crime of downing a [words indistinct] 300 children, women and men aboard.

Further on Washington's objectives behind the downing of the Iran Airbus, the president said arrogance resorted to the desperate move in coordination with the Iraqi Ba'thist regime, while having a wrong and deviating notion about the developments in Iran.

He said the U.S., regional reaction and Iraq were working coordinating with the aim of putting psychological pressure on the Iranian nation and undermining their determination in continuing their holy defence.

This incident, he said, instead of intimidating the Iranian people, added to their hatred and wrath towards the enemies of the revolution. "Our people now know better how dangerous, malicious and tough their enemies are," he noted.

The SDC chief pointed out that the Iranians have very well realised that campaign against the U.S. and its agents is a struggle in favor of humanity and human values. Their incentive to continue this fight has now doubled, he maintained.

Lashing out at America's continued presence in the Persian Gulf, President Khamene'i said the matter was not something to be easily overlooked by Islamic Iran. "It is not acceptable with any logic," he said.

The U.S. military build-up in the Persian Gulf was so far a cause of tension and insecurity, but now it has turned to a tragedy, said the SDC head, adding that if anything happens in the region from now on, the U.S. would be directly responsible. "The Americans must leave the region," he said emphatically.

In conclusion, President Khamene'i urged the people to fill the war fronts and said, "we are determined to utilise all our forces by relying on your power and unity and put the U.S. agents, with Iraq at the top of them, under our constant attacks, and we have no doubt victory will be ours."

According to IRNA reporters, the group of 76 whom funeral procession was held, included seven children and some of the foreign nationals killed in the incident.

More Leaders' Comments, Reaction to U.S. Attack

Larijani Denies Remarks

LD0707183888 Tehran IRNA in English 1829 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Text] Rome, July 7, IRNA—A senior Iranian official today categorically refuted reports aired by the Kuwaiti News Agency (KUNA) that the pilot of the Iranian Airbus A-300, missiled down by the U.S. Navy in the Persian Gulf last Sunday, had ignored warnings from American warships.

KUNA in its Thursday's despatches, misquoting Larijani's earlier interview with the Austrian daily "KURIER" claimed that the pilot of the downed Iranian aircraft had ignored the U.S. Navy's messages.

Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-American Affairs Mohammad Javad Larijani, who made a stop-over here on his way back to Tehran from Geneva, termed KUNA reports as "pure fabrication" and said he had never made such statements in his interview with the Austrian daily.

Iran Air flight 655 enroute to Dubayy from the southern port city of Bandar-e 'Abbas was missiled down by the U.S. Cruiser USS "Vincennes" Sunday morning, killing all 290 passengers and crew aboard, including 66 under 12-year-old children. There were also 38 foreigners of various nationalities among the passengers.

American officials initially claimed that the crew aboard the "sophisticated Vincennes" mistook the large Airbus A-300 for a relatively small F-14 jet fighter passenger quite ironically of their own make. But when evidence started turning up to the contrary, the Americans turned track and this time said that flight 655 had strayed off course and appeared to be descending in a hostile manner.

But aviation experts disproved American statements confirming that the routine 5-days a week flight was perfectly within its normal course (civilian air corridor S-59) and in fact was climbing up when missiled down by the American cruiser.

Moreover the site of the explosion (26.43 degrees North, 56.3 degrees East) coupled with the hostile statements of the American area commander general George Crist [title as received] barely 24 hours ago, leaves no one in doubt that the attack was deliberate and pre-planned.

It is also worth recalling that Washington's illegal naval presence in the Persian Gulf is supposed to be at the so-called invitation of Kuwait "to protect navigation."

The deputy foreign minister pointed out that there are various other evidences proving that the plane could not have been downed by mistake.

Larijani also said that he was to hold talks with Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti on mutual relations, the Iraqi-imposed war and other international issues, including the U.S. downing of the Iranian passenger plane.

The Iranian official is expected back in Tehran Thursday night after his meeting with the Italian foreign minister.

Mansuri: No Civilian Retaliation

TA0707110788 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 1000 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Text] Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Javad Mansuri, currently visiting Ankara, has said that all countries must take a serious approach to the issue of the Iranian airliner downed by the United States. He added that all the regional countries must treat this issue with importance, as their individual security ensures the security of the region.

At a news conference in Ankara, Mansuri described the downing of the airliner as a major disaster. He explained that this issue was also discussed during his talks in Ankara. He stressed that the attack was against civil aviation and the Iranian people, adding that the Turkish authorities understand Iran on this issue and that the two countries agree that foreign forces must withdraw from the Gulf.

The Iranian deputy foreign minister pointed out that his country reserves the right to retaliate for this attack but that, unlike the United States, it does not consider hitting civilian targets.

Mansuri said that Iran is pleased to observe that Turkey remains neutral in the Iran-Iraq war. It would be easier to end the war if other countries did likewise, he said.

The visiting deputy foreign minister also said that relations with Turkey continue to develop. He expressed the belief that his contacts will yield positive results.

Protest to U.S. Via Algeria

OW0707131788 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1200 GMT 7 Jul 88

[From "News Today" program; interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Sheykh ol-Eslam by an unidentified NHK correspondent; date, place not given; in Persian with Japanese subtitles—recorded]

[Text] [Sheykh ol-Eslam] A memorandum of protest has already been sent to the U.S. Government through Algeria. The U.S. Government should be held responsible for all the political and economic consequences of the incident. It is the United States that has caused the disturbances resulting from this incident. All such responsibilities are stated in the memorandum. In particular, it is stated that the incident was caused intentionally. It is stressed that the tragedy has resulted from the presence of the U.S. fleet in the Persian Gulf. If they shot down the plane knowing that it was a civilian airliner, it was precisely a criminal act. If they shot down the plane without knowing that it was a civil airliner, the United States will repeat the same mistake. The United States should bear all the responsibilities for all the consequences of the incident, and Iran has the right to take countermeasures against the criminal act of the United States.

Conflicts Mount in U.S. Story

LD0707194788 Tehran IRNA in English 1916 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Text] London, July 7, IRNA—The frantic search by the U.S. to cover up its crime of shooting down an Iran Air passenger liner has left the Reagan administration embarrassingly licking its wounds and trying to limit the damage to its international standing, say reports from Washington.

The Pentagon's version of Sunday's destruction of the Airbus A-300 and its 290 passengers aboard has been crumbling at every hurdle by conflicting evidence from its own sources and many military analysts question the reliability of its claims.

The Defense Department has already been forced to concede that the Iran Air flight 655 was climbing up, was in its commercial air corridor and giving out only civilian signals, all contradicting Washington's first claims. And now the U.S. is seen trying to change its track by suggesting the cruiser "Vincennes" was confused by a military aircraft in the area.

The latest excuse, offered by Congress Chairman of the Armed Services Committee Les Aspin, unfortunately cannot substantiate the claim but maintains that the possibility exists but was "somehow masked" from the radar of the "Vincennes," which unmanly shot down the plane. [sentence as received]

In its dispatch on the mounting conflict of evidence in Washington, the London GUARDIAN Thursday found veteran U.S. Navy pilots developing the argument that even if the plane had been an F-14, as originally alleged, as an interceptor fighter it would have been no threat to the American surface fleet in the Persian Gulf.

The absence of strong U.S. criticism in the British press has caused several readers to take up the issue and have cited, by way of letters to newspapers, many aspects overlooked in the attempted cover-up. [sentence as received]

One reader to the London INDEPENDENT contended that regardlessly the U.S. had broken its rules of engagement "because ipso facto the warship was not under attack," while another found misinformation from the Americans over their explanation as "standard procedure."

A theoretical physics doctor in a letter to THE GUARDIAN questioned U.S. assertions about the capabilities of the Aegis radar system on the "Vincennes," saying the claim of 'mistaking' the size of aircraft by radar may have been true during the Korean and Vietnam wars, but not anymore.

The facilities of the Aegis "bears no relation" and available computer software includes profiles of F-14s and to match that they would have found an airbus fuselage many times larger. Moreover time-tables and flight-paths of civilian planes should have also been there.

Another letter to the same paper spoke of how simple binoculars were used to identify planes during World War Two and even from longer distances than the 9 miles the airbus was reported to be away, could easily tell differences.

European Parliament's Call

LD0707192288 Tehran IRNA in English 1907 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Text] London, July 7, IRNA—The European parliament has overwelmingly called for an independent inquiry into the U.S. destruction of an Iranian passenger plane last Sunday.

In an all-party resolution Thursday, members voted 139 to 15 for the U.S. Government to accept, subject to findings of an official inquiry, all legal obligations for compensation. Six members abstained from the motion.

They backed the request by the International Civil Aviation Organisation to carry out an independent study to investigate the circumstances of the American missile attack on Iran Air Flight 655 over the Persian Gulf that killed all 290 on board.

The parliament is based in Strasbourg and is made up of members directly elected from the 12-nation European Community. It said that it "strongly regrets" the U.S. destruction and "expresses its sympathy" for families of the victims.

The move received strong support from all major parties and is another blow to President Reagan's attempted white-wash of the incident coming amid the UN secretary general's rejection of his claim that the issue is now closed.

"It is not for one side to decide whether the question is closed," Perez de Cuellar told a news conference in Stockholm Thursday. "The evidence is that the Iranians have decided to go to the Security Council."

After a meeting with the secretary general in Geneva Wednesday, Iran's deputy foreign minister Mohammad Javad Larijani said that any moves by Washington to veto a resolution would not only show the U.S. weakness to the world but "destroy the remaining credibility" the third world has towards the U.N.

Last Sunday the American warship "USS Vincennes" breached the sacred laws of air traffic safety by criminally firing two surface-to-air missiles at an Iranian passenger plane on a routine flight to Dubayy, shortly after it .ook off

from Bandar-e 'Abbas airport. The airbus A-300 split in mid-air and there were no survivors among its 290 passengers which also included 66 children.

Aviation Official on Altitude

LD0707160688 Tehran IRNA in English 1600 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Text] Bandar-e 'Abbas, Hormuzgan Prov., July 7, IRNA—Domestic and foreign reporters here to file reports on the U.S. unmanly crime of missiling down an Iran Air passenger plane, inspected Wednesday parts of the airbus wreckage which were hauled out of water over the past two days.

Several dislocated parts, internal fittings, safety vests, sections of the nose and wing of the Airbus A-300, which exploded in mid-air when hit by two missiles from the cruiser USS Vincennes, were among the debris reporters observed.

A provincial aviation official told reporters that Flight 655 was flying through its regular air corridor on its 5-day a week shuttle to Dubayy, at the time of the attack. He added that the pilot reported the airbus altitude at the time of the attack at 12,000 feet and was climbing up to 14,000 feet.

He categorically denied U.S. claims that the airbus was losing altitude and labelled it as a "mere lie."

Meanwhile, a man who lost several of his close relatives in the airbus catastrophe told reporters "when you look at these mutilated bodies, you can see the Reagan-style human rights. [no closing quotation marks as received]

The reporters later met bereaved families, who vehemently condemned U.S. unmanly crime and stressed their resolution to continue their struggle whatever the circumstances or pressures exerted by oppression.

An Iran Air airbus A-300, with 290 passengers and crew members aboard was hit by two missiles from the American warship USS Vincennes over the Hormuz Strait Sunday, shortly after its take off from Bandar-e 'Abbas.

Leaders Send Condolences

LD0707162788 Tehran IRNA in English 1540 GMT 7 Jul 88

["Shocked World Expresses Sympathies to Iranian People—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, July 7, IRNA—Leaders of world countries continue to express their sympathies to the Iranian officials over the U.S. Navy's criminal downing of the Iranian passenger airliner (airbus A-300).

In their messages to President 'Ali Khamene'i, presidents of Turkey, Romania, Zambia, Sierra Leone, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Burkina Faso, Madagascar, Tanzania and Oman's Sultan al-Qabas, condoled the Iranian nation and government. U.N. chief Javier Perez de Cuellar also sent a cable to Khamene'i.

The Governments of Malaysia, Brazil, Ireland and Uruguay have also released statements expressing sympathy to the Iranian nation and government over the criminal U.S. attack on Iran Air flight 655 enroute to Dubayy, which resulted in the martyrdom of 290 innocent people, among them 66 children.

Iran Denies Shultz Remarks on Desire for Talks

LD0707145088 Tehran IRNA in English 1432 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 7, IRNA—The Foreign Ministry today categorically refuted as 'untrue' recent allegations of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz that Iranian officials had expressed desire for talks with Washington.

A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry, strongly denying any such contacts between Tehran and Washington, termed Shultz' allegations 'futile efforts' by the U.S. to divert world public attention from its last Sunday's unmanly downing of Iranian airliner with 290 passengers and crew aboard over the Persian Gulf.

Since the deployment of its naval fleets in the Persian Gulf last year, the U.S. on the one hand has displayed deep animosity towards the Islamic Republic and on the other its full support for the Iraqi Ba'thist regime, he said.

First it seized and scuttled the cargo ship 'Iran Ajr,' then attacked oil rigs and ships and now it has breached the sacred laws of air traffic by criminally downing a passenger plane, he added.

Iran Air flight 655 enroute to Dubayy from the southern port city of Bandar-e 'Abbas Sunday morning was split in mid-air and crashed into Persian Gulf waters after being hit by two surface-to-air missiles fired by the cruiser 'USS Vincennes.'

All passengers and crew aboard the airbus A-300, including 66 under 12-year-old children and 38 foreigners of various nationalities, were martyred in the criminal U.S. attack.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman also said that Shultz' claims are aimed at cooling down the wrath of the Iranian people and other Muslims throughout the world over the U.S. crime and legitimizing its illegal military presence in the Persian Gulf.

Israel Reportedly To Sell Jericho-1 Missiles

NC0207110788 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1026 GMT 2 Jul 88

[Text] Kuwait, 2 Jul (MENA)—In today's edition, the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS cites Nicosia-based international arms dealers as saying that Iran is about to conclude a deal with Israel to obtain Israeli surface-to-surface Jericho-1 missiles, noting that the deal will be carried out through a third country. The same sources are quoted as saying that Israel wants to abandon this version of the missile and go ahead with the production of the Jericho-2, which has a longer range, better hitting accuracy, and more destruction capability.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Assesses Ties With UK

LD0707115288 Tehran IRNA in English 1150 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 7, IRNA—A Foreign Ministry spokesman today said no significant change had yet been made in relations between Iran and Britain although the two countries had reached final agreement to compensate for the damage inflicted on their embassies in Tehran and London.

A compensation agreement between Tehran and London was finalised Wednesday in the form of an exchange of notes.

However, the spokesman said, the newly reached agreement could prepare the ground for removal of other problems on the way of normalisation of relations.

A basic change in Tehran-London ties would depend on Britain's decision to adopt an independent policy towards the Islamic Republic and avoid following U.S. polcies on the Iraqi-imposed war and other regional issues.

How could one expect a significant development in Tehran-London ties when the London government has taken the same stand on last Sunday's U.S. downing of an Iranian passenger plane that President Reagan, the number one man responsible for the crime, has? he asked.

Armed Forces General Staff Mobilization Call

NC0807060788 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 8 Jul 88

["Text" of statement issued by the Headquarters of the General Staff to the nation on 7 July—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the Almighty, the Compassionate. O noble Iranian nation! The war that was imposed on our nation 8 years ago in a bid to destroy the Islamic revolution is a manifestation of the rage of arrogance toward our liberating Islamic revolution. The world is well aware that we neither started nor wanted the war. However, we have never doubted for even a moment our resolve to defend Islam and independence.

Our nation is facing a big divine and historic test today. But what is important is that the future of history belongs to us. We should resist and be hopeful in divine [words indistinct].

You, great people, have proved to the world through your very firm defense during the course of this undeserved conflagration that nothing but justice will quieten you.

At a time when arrogance is brandishing its teeth and claws at our nation; at a time when the United States, aided by reaction, is carrying out aggressive actions in the Persian Gulf aimed at (?encouraging) Saddam's aggressions; at a time when it does not even refrain from downing a passenger plane as an act of revenge; at a time when your just call to punish and crush the aggressor falls on the deaf ears of those political circles in the world which are under the influence of bullying powers, especially the United States; and at a time when all the infidels have risen in front of pure Islam, which is manifested by your revolution, you need to resist today more than ever before.

You, great nation, who have learned the path of honor and respect from your imam, should fill the battlefields with strong combatant forces and once again thwart—with an Islamic and revolutionary spirit—any doubts in the world, which are the fruits of the enemy's psychological war, on the future of the revolution and on the destiny of the war. You should rise with even greater ambition and not lose opportunities. You should powerfully display the determination of the government and of the nation to continue the sacred defense until the last person and until the last breath.

It is natural for the nation to expect that all of the many existing military, popular, technical, organizational, and national potentials should be tapped to create the most effective and the most disciplined military and combat organization which will persistently defend Islam and the country. God willing, the people's just expectation will materialize as a result of the valuable efforts of the acting commander in chief. However, the determination to defend Islam and the country should not be doubted nor impaired for even 1 minute.

In setting off on the great path before it, the General Staff Headquarters sincerely demands that the nation should fill the fronts with fresh and trained forces, who, by preserving their full alertness, will stand up proudly in front of the bloodthirsty enemy who is constantly strengthened by the arrogant powers. God willing, by their actions, our forces will succeed in wiping out the vestiges of the sinister union between arrogance and reaction which supports Saddam against the Islamic revolution.

The General Staff Headquarters draws the Muslim and noble Iranian nation's attention to the following sensitive and important points:

1. All persons who can carry a gun and go to the fronts should promptly apply to the IRGC bases and to the resistance units throughout the country to register preparatory to being sent to the fronts or to military training centers so that they can be sent to the fronts as organizational requirements dictate.

2. The Malek Ashtar Forces and the Basijis with combat qualifications—both official or honorary Revolutionary Guards—should continue their services, according to the IRGC's request, until the manpower shortage in the operational units is overcome.

3. The executive órgans and the guilds should extend all necessary assistance for the dispatch and training of volunteer combatants, as well as other steps needed to strengthen the operational units.

4. The War Support Headquarters in the provinces and towns should create the necessary conditions for the implementation of the above points.

5. The timetable for dispatches to the front of the sacred defense will be announced in separate statements to the proud and noble Iranian people in the near future.

May God's peace and mercy be upon you. 16 Tir 1367 [7 July 1988].

[Signed] The General Command Headquarters.

Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue

Panjwin, Al-Faw Bombed

LD0807110188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Jul 88

[Text] A report issued by the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran states that Air Force pilots, in a series of destructive operations carried out at 0607, 0608, and 0825, 0830, 0940, 0941, 1140 and 1145 today, heavily bombed troop concentrations fortifications, and armored equipment of the aggressor Iraqi Army forces in the operational zones of Panjwin, Al-Faw, and the south of Minu Island. After inflicting heavy casualties and damage they all returned safety to their bases.

Shalar Region Bombed

LD0707122488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Text] According to a report by Iran's Joint Staff Command, the brave pilots of Iran's Air Force, flying a number of their fighter-bombers, at 0805, 0810, 1215, and 1220 today heavily bombed troop and armor concentrations of the aggressive army of Iraq in two operational areas in Shalar region. Having inflicted heavy losses and damage on the Saddamites, the pilots all returned safely to their bases.

Communique No 3,256

LD0707162288 Tehran IRNA in English 1546 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 7 IRNA—Iranian jet fighters in four separate sorties heavily bombarded Iraqi positions and troop concentration sites in Shalar, northwestern sector, Thursday, inflicting substantial casualties and losses on the enemy, according to a military communique here.

The 3256th communique, released by the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces, said all fighters returned safely to bases after successfully carrying out the bombing missions carried out at 08:05, 08:10, 12:15 and 12:20 hours local times (04:35, 04:40, 08:45 and 08:50 GMT).

Iranian naval units, in addition to carrying out their routine patrol missions in the territorial waters Wednesday, closely monitored movement of four Iraqi vessels around Al-Bakr and al-'Amayah oil platforms.

On the battlefields, Iran's Muslim combatants continued battling with Iraqi troops with artillery, mortar and other heavy weapons yesterday, killing and wounding an undetermined number of enemy soldiers as well as inflicting considerable losses on them.

Iranian artillery fire repelled a number of Iraqi patrol convoys in Shalar and Panjwin, northwestern fronts, Wednesday, killing and wounding several enemy patrolmen.

A number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and an enemy machine-gun emplacement, three bunkers and an observation post were set ablaze in artillery duels with Iranian gendarmeries forces yesterday.

On Wednesday, heavy fire of the Muslim conmbatants checked Iraqi logistical and engineering operations throughout the battlefronts, concluded the communique.

Area East of Basra Bombed

LD0707183388 Tehran IRNA in English 1820 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 7, IRNA—Iranian fighter-bombers heavily pounded the enemy's concentration sites east of Basra at 18:30 and 18:35 hours local time (15:00 and 15:05 GMT) today, said a Joint Staff communique here today.

All the planes returned safely to their bases after inflicting substantial losses and casualties upon the enemy forces, it added.

Pakistan

UN's Cordovez Comments on Kabul Talks

BK0807112388 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 8 Jul 88

[Text] The UN secretary general's special representative on Afghanistan, Mr Diego Cordovez, has said he is satisfied with the pace of withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan. On his return to Islamabad from Kabul this afternoon, he told newsmen that he held talks with the Kabul regime authorities including Dr Najibullah and Mr 'Abdul Wakil on the implementation of the Geneva accords. He also had a meeting with the chief of the Soviet forces in Afghanistan and discussed with him about the schedule of troops withdrawal from there.

In reply to a question, he said he is satisfied on the implementation of the Geneva accords.

Yaqub Khan To Visit Saudi Arabia, Iran

BK0707153988 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan leaves on a 6-day official visit to Saudi Arabia and Iran on Saturday [9 July]. On his way back home, he will make a stopover in Damascus.

Radio Pakistan's diplomatic representative says Pakistan has extremely cordial and fraternal relations with Saudi Arabia. The two countries have identical views on all issues concerning the Islamic community. Similarly, Pakistan's relations with Iran are also extremely cordial, and they are strengthening with the passage of time. These visits of Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, which are undertaken after assuming the office of foreign minister for the second time, prove the importance Pakistan attaches to these countries.

Adviser on Tax Reforms, Implementation Appointed

BK0407040088 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] The president has appointed Qamrul Islam as adviser on tax reforms and implementation. His portfolio and hierarchy will be on par with a federal minister.

NWFP Chief Inaugurates New Division, Districts

BK0107162288 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 1 Jul 88

[Text] The NWFP caretaker chief minister, retired General Fazle Haq, inaugurated the newly created Mardan Division and districts of Swabi and Charsadda today. Addressing the people at three separate functions in Mardan, Swabi and Charsadda, he said that the establishment of new division and districts would greatly help in the development of the area.

Sri Lanka

Unidentified Gunmen Kill 2 in Southern Province

BK0307114288 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1040 GMT 3 Jul 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 3 July (LANKAPUVATH)—Unidentified killers believed by police to be of the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) murdered two civilians in separate incidents last Friday. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that Paranamanage Gunasena, president of the UNP committee in the Meegahayandura area in Sri Lanka's Southern Province district of Hambantota, was stabbed to death last Friday at 1730 (local time).

A report from Matara states 2 gunmen shot dead P.M. Saman at his home in Denipitiya. Two 5.56 empty casings were recovered from the scene of the crime.

Indian Forces Capture 35 'Terrorists' 1 Jul

BK0207105088 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0954 GMT 2 Jul 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 2 July (LANKAPUVATH)—The Indian troops in search operations in Sri Lanka's northern and eastern provinces yesterday apprehended 35 terrorists. The troops also seized a fair quantity of arms.

Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that 17 terrorists were apprehended in the southwest of Vavuniya, 10 at Muttur, 2 at Kinniya, one from a point 6 kilometres east of Paranthan and one other from a location 7 kilometres north of Vesankulam.

They also took into custody 4 terrorists at Mannar along with one .38 locally made pistol and 5 rounds of ammunition.

In search operations at Arapattai in the Ampara-Batticaloa sector, Indian troops recovered one AK47 rifle, 3 AK47 rifle magazines, 115 rounds of AK47 ammunition, 1 SMG [submachine gun], 1 magazine with 20 rounds of ammunition one .38 revolver with 5 rounds of ammunition and one hand grenade from a house, and, from an area south of Kalmunai, the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] seized one AK47 magazine and 2 hand grenades.

In Jaffna, the Indian troops following information found 38 hand grenades, 1 kilogram of gun powder and 10 metres of cordtex in a well.

Indian Forces Kill 3 'Terrorists' in North, East

BK0307113588 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1049 GMT 3 Jul 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 3 July (LANKAPUVATH)—Three terrorists were killed and fourteen others apprehended in operations conducted by the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) in Sri Lanka's Northern and Eastern Provinces.

Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that in an encounter between Indian troops and terrorists in south west of Vavuniya, 2 terrorists were killed and 2 others apprehended.

The sources also said that one IPKF soldier sustained injuries during the exchange of fire.

At Kankayanadai in the Ampara—Batticaloa sector, Indian troops shot dead a terrorist, Sri Bala, who tried to escape during a search operation.

At Manchanthuduwai in the same sector, 5 LTTE terrorists ambushed an IPKF patrol. Indian troops returned the fire and captured one terrorist, Thuraidas Sinnavanwith, with gun shot injuries. The sources said there were no casualties listed among Indian troops.

The IPKF apprehended 4 hardcore terrorists, Nityanandan, Ganeshan, Gangadharan and Lokesan at Cheddikulam in Vavuniya; 2 others, Satish Kumar and Kanagasabapathi, were captured in the south west of Kilinochchi and five more were apprehended at Pullumalai in Batticaloa.

A report from Jaffna states that a vehicle blasted by terrorists at Pallai caused injuries to 2 Indian soldiers.

Another report, also from Jaffna, states Indian troops recovered 3 hand grenades from a house in Arisiddi Road.

At Trincomalee, the IPKF found in an abandoned terrorist camp at Verugal 14 bags containing sugar, rice, dhal [beans], salt, tea leaves and milk powder. Indian troops also seized at Paleankum in the Wanni sector 40 kilograms of explosives, 1 SLR [self-loading rifle] magazine, 1 hand grenade, 11 rounds of small arms ammunition and 1 bicycle.

The sources also said that the body of Nagalingam was found at Paranthan in Sri Lanka's northern Wanni sector yesterday. A poster placed near the body stated that he was killed because he was an IPKF informant.

2 UNP Members Killed, 16 Wounded in Ratnapura

BK0607092588 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0830 GMT 6 Jul 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 06 July (LANKAPUVATH)—Two persons were killed and 16 wounded when a group of United National Party supporters who were returning to their homes last night were attacked by gunmen at Ratnapura, 101 kilometres south east of Colombo. Chief minister of the Sabaragamuwa Province G.V. Punchinilame told LANKAPUVATH this morning that the two persons killed were Mr Anver, secretary of the UNP branch at Samaragiripura, about 4 kilometres from Ratnapura town, and Karunadasa, the organiser of the branch. Police said that three of the 16 wounded were in a serious condition. The gunmen had fired several shots and hurled bombs at the group of UNP supporters, police told LANKAPUVATH.

Investigations into the incident are being led by senior superintendent in charge of the Ratnapura police, S.H.S. Herat.

A parliamentary by-election is being held for the Ratnapura seat on July 14. It was earlier held by Mr Punchinilame who resigned and successfully contested the Sabaragamuwa provincial council elections and became its chief minister.

4 Killed, 9 Wounded in Shootout Near Colombo

BK0607103388 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1000 GMT 6 Jul 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 06 July (LANKAPUVATH)—Four persons were reported to have been killed and nine wounded this morning in an exchange of fire between the police and a [words indistinct] Mount Lavinia Junction, a suburb south of Colombo, police told LANKAPUVATH. They said that the squad of policemen were escorting a group of remand prisoners when the gang who were lying in ambush a few yards away from the Mount Lavinia Junction opened fire at the vehicle transporting the prisoners, allegedly members of a rival gang. The police escort had returned the fire. One of the dead was reported as being the leader of a gang in the sea beach road area in Ratmalana which was responsible for the attack.